



International Council of Air Shows
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May 8, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chair
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graves, Member Larsen, Chairwoman Cantwell and Senator Cruz:

As the organization representing the pilots and organizers of hundreds of public air shows that host tens of millions of spectators each year, we are writing today to express our strong support for the compromise amendment that will reconcile House and Senate versions of the FAA Reauthorization Act.

This bipartisan, bicameral legislation represents both an important step forward for aviation in this country and a promising example of how legislators and the constituencies they represent can come together to support legislation and a vision of the future that benefits the United States now and in the future.

Specifically, provisions to put safety first, streamline regulations and the regulatory process, and eliminate unneeded airspace restrictions that limit the ability of air shows to conduct their events in proximity to certain sports stadiums are both deeply appreciated by our industry and important elements of our country's vision for aviation's future.

On behalf of our organization, its members and the millions of fans who attend air shows every year, we urge both the House and Senate to vote soon and positively on this landmark legislation.

Very Respectfully,

John Cudahy
President
International Council of Air Shows

All terms and conditions of employment for U.S. and Canadian air show entertainment groups and performers are similar in that any given show provides certain things for every act. From there, each performer negotiates their fee with each show. Fees vary with a number of factors, including the cost for transportation to the show and number of days of the show and frankly, the popularity of the act. All acts operate within a broad price range, and occasionally, some very high-profile shows are done for very low fees by the performers. Also, some acts are kind enough to donate their time and expertise for a show which is designed to give money to charity. In these instances, the pilot then receives a place to stay, food and fuel and oil for the aircraft.

Finally, it's important to note that the system described above is the same system that has been in use by the air show industry for at least the last 30 years. During the last several years, we have codified and documented some of the industry's standard practices in the form of reciprocity agreements and such, but even those agreements are based on the prevailing and generally accepted practices that our industry has been using since at least 1975.

Should you have any further questions regarding the Northern Stars, Todd Farrell, Mario Hamel and Gregory Hume-Powell, the air show industry or our exchange agreement with CASA, please feel free to contact me at 703-779-8510 or by email at cudahy@airshows.aero.

Very respectfully,



John Cudahy
President/CEO
International Council of Air Shows