



August 21, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

On behalf of the Geosynthetic Materials Association (GMA), I am writing to thank you for your leadership in working to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. We applaud your dedication in ensuring that our nation's airport infrastructure continues to connect businesses and people around the world, all the while upholding the ideals of safety and economic growth.

GMA and its 70+ member companies wholeheartedly support the 21st Century Aviation Innovation, Reform & Reauthorization (AIRR) Act of 2017. The AIRR Act ensures the modernization of our nation's airport infrastructure through a commitment to funding the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), streamlining the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) application process, and the assurance that our airports' diverse needs and interests will be sufficiently represented.

GMA is a division of the Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI), a trade association comprised of member companies representing the global specialty fabrics and advanced textiles marketplace. GMA's manufacturers and distributors are a critical element of the transportation construction supply chain as geosynthetics provide cost savings and structural integrity in airport construction and maintenance. Geosynthetics can be deployed faster than traditional materials, resulting in faster project delivery and decreased congestion at our nation's airports. GMA works regularly with the FAA William J. Hughes Technical Center in New Jersey to test and specify these materials for use in FAA projects. Our work with the Tech Center gives the FAA confidence that geosynthetics can achieve the FAA's goal of longer lasting runways and taxiways.

Our nation should not miss opportunities to spur economic growth, welcome innovation and improve our global competitiveness. We urge the House of Representatives to move forward with the consideration of the 21st Century Aviation Innovation, Reform & Reauthorization (AIRR) Act of 2017.

Sincerely,

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