



May 7, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science and
Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Graves, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Larsen, and Ranking Member Cruz:

On behalf of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), we write in support of the bicameral, bipartisan agreement on a final FAA reauthorization bill.

As the nationally recognized voice for the public interest in aviation, NASAO represents state government aviation agencies of all 50 States, Guam, and Puerto Rico, who, as part of their many responsibilities, make decisions on funding aviation systems and airport infrastructure at our nation's more than 3,300 public-use airports.

This compromise legislation would increase investments in our nation's public-use airports, especially providing more federal support for general aviation airports – the backbone of our aviation system. It would also establish a grant program for state, tribal, and local governments to purchase and use drones to increase infrastructure project efficiencies, provide funding for the Essential Air Service and Small Community Air Service Development programs, two programs that are critical to ensuring small communities have air service; require a much needed study on improving the reliability of automated weather observing systems; and provide better support for the State Block Grant program, a program that enables certain States to optimize federal and state funding for their airport systems.

We strongly urge Congress to pass this bicameral, bipartisan agreement before the current authorization expires. We need a long-term reauthorization of the FAA as short-term extensions prevent the industry and the FAA from conducting long-term planning and investment in our national aviation system, including planning for and completing critical airport infrastructure projects.

Thank you for your continued leadership and commitment to passing a long-term FAA reauthorization bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kyle Wanner".

Kyle Wanner
Chair, NASAO Board of Directors and
Director, North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gregory Pecoraro".

Gregory Pecoraro
NASAO President and CEO