



June 12, 2023

Chairman Sam Graves
House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Rick Larsen
House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Chairman Garret Graves
House Aviation Subcommittee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Steve Cohen
House Aviation Subcommittee
2164 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Graves, and Ranking Member Cohen,

On behalf of the membership of the General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), we write to thank you for the introduction and timely consideration of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization bill. Our membership has been closely following the process and strongly advocated for legislation that will provide leadership, stability, and direction to the agency at a critical time.

For this reason, we applaud the bipartisan introduction of the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (H.R. 3935) including titles devoted to general aviation and aerospace innovation. The measure, which seeks to reauthorize the FAA's critical activities that promote safety, infrastructure, innovation, workforce, and competitiveness, contains several key priorities that are critical to the general aviation manufacturing and maintenance sector that GAMA advocated for. These include:

- **Agency Funding and Leadership**: The bill authorizes funding from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund to fund agency operations and investments which are critical to the safety and stability of the entire sector. It also takes steps to address the lack of permanent and empowered leadership at the agency, by creating a new career Deputy Administrator for Safety and Operations, and a new Assistant Administrator for Rulemaking and Regulatory Improvement.
- **Agency Rulemaking**: Beyond the new Assistant Administrator for Rulemaking and Regulatory Rulemaking, the measure also takes steps to ensure FAA regulatory process, including for items like policy and guidance materials, is more transparent, timely, and accountable. GAMA has championed changes in this area to facilitate the delivery of innovation and technology that can enhance safety and to strengthen U.S. leadership.
- **EAGLE Initiative**: The measure strongly supports the ongoing Eliminate Aviation Gasoline Lead Emissions (EAGLE) Initiative and encourages its work in the

General Aviation Manufacturers Association

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development and implementation of a high-octane unleaded fuel for the piston-engine aircraft fleet by 2030.

- Workforce Initiatives: The agreement extends and enhances critical aviation workforce development programs (Sec. 625) authorized in 2018 focused on pilots and maintenance and expands the program to add a focus on manufacturing which GAMA strongly supports. Additionally, the legislation directs an FAA workforce assessment including staffing levels, competency, and skills for critical safety positions in the Flight Standards Service and Aircraft Certification Service and the consideration of expanded training opportunities to enhance FAA's technical capabilities. The bill also encourages a telework policy that is based on job functions, duties, and level of management.
- Global Aviation Safety: The measure strongly supports FAA's engagement with international civil aviation authorities to encourage validation of product in the international marketplace and harmonize requirements and processes with other authorities to the benefit of aviation safety and industry. The text also requires development of a strategic plan for international engagement to measure compliance with international aviation safety agreements and strengthen its international offices' activity as well as improving the delivery of technical assistance.
- Encouraging Evolution in the Certification Process: The bill pushes FAA to improve safety oversight and the effectiveness of the certification process through technology that would encourage use of digital tools and software.
- Advanced Air Mobility: The measure sets a path for Advanced Air Mobility (AAM) vehicles, including rulemaking, to enable powered-lift operations by 2025, a timeframe for commercial operations within five years, and the integration and entry into the national airspace system for these vehicles. Additionally, the bill provides direction on infrastructure to support vertical flight including the development of vertiports.

The Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act provides a strong foundation to set a positive trajectory for the FAA at a critical time for the agency. The Act's proposed investments, and direction, will enable the FAA and industry to address issues needed to address safety issues, industry growth and innovation, and critical workforce and infrastructure investments. GAMA strongly supports committee passage of H.R. 3935 and looks forward to working with policymakers on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and broader body, to advance and strengthen these priorities through the legislative process.

Sincerely,



Peter J. Bunce
President & CEO