

November 23, 2026

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Johnson, Leader Jeffries, Leader Thune and Leader Schumer:

On behalf of the Modern Skies Coalition, representing more than 60 leading aviation stakeholders in the United States, we write to thank you for your leadership and support for upgrading our nation's aging air traffic control (ATC) system.

Our nation's aviation system is a critical national asset, but it is under increasing strain. The recent air traffic control ground stop, which was yet another blow to the traveling and shipping public, put a national spotlight on just how fragile the system has become and underscores a pressing need for Congress to fix this problem sooner rather than later. We appreciate your bipartisan approach to protecting and strengthening the system and respectfully urge you, in the remaining weeks of the 119th Congress, to complete the FY2027 appropriations process and provide at least $30 billion in additional funding to fully modernize our ATC system, with proper staffing and training for those working in it.

Our industry is inextricably integrated with the federal government and its employees, and we believe regular order for the appropriations process is critical to advancing Federal Aviation Administration's

(FAA) safety activities and air traffic operations and modernization. We encourage Congress to complete the FY2027 process in a timely manner and avoid any government shutdown which has a disproportionately negative impact on aviation. We will continue to strongly support efforts to keep the appropriations process functioning to avoid the consequences of another shutdown.

Modernizing our nation's ATC system is a national imperative. Enhancing the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System (NAS) is long overdue and will ensure the continued flow of people and commerce to maintain America's global leadership role in aviation and aerospace.

We appreciate Congress providing an initial $12.5 billion "down payment" for ATC modernization, and appropriators have built on this significant one-time infusion by increasing annual funding for the FAA Facilities & Equipment account from approximately $3 billion to $4 billion, demonstrating bipartisan and bicameral support for investment in critical ATC assets.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) has made strong initial progress, putting these new resources to work for the traveling public and airspace users. However, Congress must continue to hold the FAA accountable through regular oversight and by requiring transparency on spending and progress. Active and engaged congressional oversight has been—and will continue to be—a crucial component in any successful, multi-year program.

American communities, the traveling public and the national economy rely on a safe, healthy and functioning aviation system which supports more than 10 million jobs and accounts for roughly 5% of the gross domestic product.

Now is the time for Congress and the Administration to come together around making progress in modernizing an ATC system that needs urgent attention.

We are grateful for your dedication to supporting the system and stand ready to work with you to secure the investments in the system that will strengthen aviation safety, enhance efficiency and maintain U.S. global leadership in aerospace.

Sincerely,

Affordable Skies
Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aerospace Industries Association
Airline Passenger Experience Association
Air Line Pilots Association, International
Air Medical Operators Association
Airbus
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Air Traffic Control Association
Airlines for America
Airports Council International – North America
Allied Pilots Association
Alpha Eta Rho
American Association of Airport Executives
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Society of Travel Advisors
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Association of Air Medical Services
Association of Value Airlines
Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
Aviation Innovation Coalition
Aviation Technical Education Council
Cargo Airline Association
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
Corporate Aircraft Association
Digital Tower Technology Coalition
Experimental Aircraft Association
GE Aerospace
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Global Business Travel Association
International Aircraft Dealers Association
International Air Transport Association
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Council of Air Shows
International Flight Services Association

National Air Carrier Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Aircraft Finance Association
National Association of State Aviation Officials
National Business Aviation Association
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, AFL-CIO
RTCA
Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association
Recreational Aviation Foundation
Regional Airline Association
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association
The Boeing Company
Travelers United
United States Parachute Association
United States Tour Operators Association
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
U.S. Contract Tower Association
U.S. Geospatial Executives Organization
U.S. Helicopter Safety Team
U.S. Travel Association
Vertical Aviation International
Vertical Flight Society

cc: House Appropriations Chairman Tom Cole, House Appropriations Ranking Member Rosa DeLauro, House Transportation Chairman Sam Graves, House Transportation Ranking Member Rick Larsen, Senate Appropriations Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Vice Chair Patty Murray, Senate Commerce Chairman Ted Cruz, Senate Commerce Ranking Member Maria Cantwell