



June 16, 2017

The Honorable Jim Inhofe
 United States Senate
 205 Russell Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
 United States Senate
 524 Hart Senate Office Building
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe and Senator Duckworth:

We are writing to express our strong support for S. 1320, the Forward Looking Investment in GA, Hangars, and Tarmacs (FLIGHT) Act of 2017.

The bipartisan FLIGHT Act addresses the growing needs of our nation's system of airports by providing the FAA with long overdue flexibility, within existing budget parameters, to fund important airport infrastructure projects at general aviation and small airport facilities. Maintaining and upgrading runways, taxiways, and aprons, and meeting the need for new hangars, helps keep these airports and the communities that rely on them vibrant and competitive.

General aviation is an important American industry that generates \$219 billion in total economic output in the United States and creates 1.1 million jobs and the network of some 2,950 non-primary airports are economic engines that provide vital access to many communities and help support local economies.

Unfortunately, for a number of reasons, our non-primary airports have not been able to fully utilize their federal airport grants to repair aging facilities, enhance aviation safety, and build necessary infrastructure projects. The FLIGHT Act addresses these concerns in a fiscally sound manner by extending the current rollover period by one year and ensuring that any non-primary grant carryover be placed in a FAA discretionary account so those funds are ultimately allocated for high priority non primary airport projects.

The FLIGHT Act also creates a public-private partnership pilot program that will help airports attract private sector investment for the construction of hangars or other facilities. This program will help many cash strapped communities and go a long way in helping replace aging facilities and develop airports for the future.

Small reliever airports play a vital role in our national airspace system and serve as economic engines for local communities. Moreover, these airports are especially important during natural disasters and serve as a staging area in support of relief efforts. Every region of the country deals with natural disasters and the FLIGHT Act recognizes the important role airports play by providing access to funding for emergency planning activities and equipment, or facilities.

We believe this legislation will help maintain, update, and repair aging facilities at thousands of airports across the country, improve safety, and ensure that communities facing natural disasters are available and prepared to provide staging areas for relief efforts.

Sincerely,

Air Care Alliance

Aircraft Electronics Association

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Airports Council International – North America

Alliance for Aviation Across America

American Association of Airport Executives

American Bonanza Society

Cessna Flyer Association

Cessna Pilots Society

Commemorative Air Force

Emergency Volunteer Air Corps

Experimental Aircraft Association

Flight School Association of North America

Flying Physicians Association

General Aviation Manufacturers Association

Glasair Aircraft Owners Association

Helicopter Association International

International Council of Air Shows

Lancair Owners and Builders Organization

Mooney Summit, Inc.

National Air Transportation Association

National Association of State Aviation Officials

National Business Aviation Association

NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots

Northern West Virginia Pilots Association

Piper Flyer Association

US Parachute Association

Veterans Airlift Command