



Airlines for America®
We Connect the World



October 30, 2018

Colonel John R. Edwards
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing
1958 Scott Drive, Suite 1
Ellsworth AFB, South Dakota 57706-4710

Dear Colonel Edwards,

As representatives of the general aviation, business aviation, commercial aviation, airport, and aviation industry, we are writing to express our appreciation for the United States Air Force's support of the Powder River Civil and Military Aviation Council (PRC). We are hoping for your continued support and commitment at the PRC's third annual meeting, scheduled for May 2019.

As you are aware, the mission of the PRC is to review the implementation of the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC) Mitigation and Monitoring Plan, track aeronautical concerns, mitigate air traffic delays, collaborate on proposed solutions, develop education and outreach, and drive efforts that will improve aeronautical efficiency and safety. These collaborative efforts became all the more important following a June 2016 near mid-air collision that took place between a general aviation airplane and a B-1 Bomber in an area where Air Traffic Control (ATC) flight following was not available. It is imperative the civil and military users who jointly need to operate in this airspace work together to ensure this type of incident does not happen again.

We believe the PRC fits well with the USAF's "adaptive management" approach to mitigating the PRTC airspace's impact on civil aviation. For example, this group reviewed the lessons learned from the June incident and is sharing those lessons with both civil and military pilots. The lessons can be applied in other outreach efforts the military is tasked with conducting such as the Mid-Air Collision Avoidance Program.

The military is a key partner in this effort and it is critical to have your expertise and perspective throughout these discussions. We understand in a time of limited funding and competing priorities, it can be challenging to justify the dedication of resources and manpower to this effort. The aviation industry participants intend to make this opportunity for collaboration on the safety,

efficiency and financial implications of the PRTC a priority, and we encourage the USAF to continue participating as well.

We appreciate the 28th Operations Support Squadron's support and dedication of leadership to the PRC meetings. We believe it is critical that commanders and those in a leadership position participate in the discussions and hear directly from the aviation stakeholders. The informative briefings help make these meetings productive and successful. Goals for the next meeting include discussions on implementable improvements to access to scheduled and real-time airspace status, lessons learned from 2018 large scale exercises, communication and surveillance gap mitigations, and USAF and stakeholder updates. Communication of real-time airspace status is a priority of this group and we request personnel who can speak to progress in this area be present. Collaboration in good spirit will be vital to our mutual success.

We appreciate your continuing efforts to improve aviation safety and trust that we can look forward to your support of the PRC meetings and its mission. The PRC's third annual meeting is scheduled for May 2019 at Bismarck, ND, and is hosted by the North Dakota Aeronautics Commission and the North Dakota Aviation Council. Thank you in advance for your support and we welcome the opportunity to provide additional information related to the PRC.

Sincerely,

Rune Duke
Senior Director of Government Affairs
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Michael Cirillo
Managing Director, Air Traffic Management
Airlines for America

Ray A. Jilek
President
Eagle Aviation, Inc.

Tim Conway
Administrator, Aeronautics Division
Montana Department of Transportation

Pete Smith
President
Montana Pilots' Association

Heidi J. Williams
Director, Air Traffic Services & Infrastructure
National Business Aviation Association

Kyle Wanner
Director
North Dakota Aeronautics Commission

Darren Hall
Chairman
North Dakota Aviation Council

Jack Dokken
Program Manager
South Dakota Department of Transportation

Richard W. Dalton
Director Airspace and Flow Management
Southwest Airlines