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DARREN PLEASANCE
President and CEO

December 16, 2025

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

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

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

On behalf of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) and our 300,000 members nationwide, I write to express AOPA's strong support for H.R. 6086, the Aviation Funding Solvency Act, which would remove the needless impact of future government shutdowns on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) air traffic control operations.

Air traffic control is a critical public safety function that must operate continuously and reliably, regardless of unrelated political disputes. As we have seen, past government shutdowns have demonstrated that even temporary funding lapses create unnecessary risk, operational uncertainty, and strain on the highly skilled workforce responsible for maintaining the safety and efficiency of the National Airspace System.

During prior shutdowns, air traffic controllers were required to work without pay, leading to morale issues, staffing shortages, and operational disruptions that affected general aviation, airlines, airports, and the traveling public alike. These outcomes are entirely preventable and undermine confidence in the stability of our aviation system.

Your bill would protect aviation safety and continuity of operations, support and retain a highly specialized federal workforce, prevent avoidable disruptions to commerce, travel, and emergency services, and reinforce the principle that public safety functions should never be subject to funding lapses.

Advancing this legislation to safeguard the National Airspace System from the consequences of future government shutdowns is vital. Doing so would be a prudent, bipartisan step in the interest of safety, economic stability, and responsible governance.

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AOPA appreciates your leadership on this important issue and urges Congress to advance H.R. 6086. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure a strong, safe, and accessible aviation system for all users.

Sincerely,

Darren Pleasance
President and CEO