



September 21, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
 Senate Majority Leader
 S-221 The Capitol
 Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid,

As trade and individual membership associations representing virtually all of the aviation community, we are writing to express our strong opposition to any proposed tax – including those taxes disguised as fees - on the aviation industry as part of the Administration’s deficit reduction program. We urge Congress to reject proposed increases in taxes or fees which will stifle the important contribution that aviation makes to our economy through travel and trade and undermine an already fragile economic recovery.

As you may know, the American economy is increasingly dependent upon the rapid transportation of products and people that aviation allows. Aviation plays a major role in driving U.S. growth and investment across the country and around the world. With current concerns about the stability and future of the U.S. economy, we feel it is important to emphasize the vital role that aviation plays in our economy:

- Represents 5.6 percent of Gross Domestic Product;
- Contributes over \$1.2 trillion in economic activity; and
- Provides 11 million jobs.

U.S. airlines, general aviation and aviation manufacturing companies and their respective employees face intense competition from the rest of the world. Our policymakers should be focused on increasing U.S. international competitiveness rather than viewing the industry as a national piggybank. If we are to maintain global leadership and increase jobs in this country, we need to stop this mentality and ensure that tax and infrastructure policy are focused on strengthening U.S. aviation leadership and furthering the safety and modernization of the aviation system.

Thank you for your leadership and we will look forward to working with you on this critical issue.

*Aerospace Industries Association
 Aerospace States Association
 Air Carrier Association of America
 Air Line Pilots Association
 Air Traffic Control Association
 Air Transport Association
 Aircraft Electronics Association
 Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
 Association of Flight Attendants
 Cargo Airline Association
 Experimental Aircraft Association
 General Aviation Airport Coalition
 General Aviation Manufacturers Association
 Global Business Travel Association*

*Helicopter Association International
 International Air Transport Association
 International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
 National Agricultural Aviation Association
 National Air Carrier Association
 National Air Transportation Association
 National Air Traffic Controllers Association
 National Association of State Aviation Officials
 National Business Aviation Association
 Recreational Aviation Foundation
 Regional Airline Association
 Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
 Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO*