

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

The Honorable Barack Obama
President
United States of America
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

March 12, 2012

Dear President Obama,

As members of the Senate General Aviation Caucus, we write in opposition to the Administration's Fiscal Year 2013 Budget proposal to establish a new \$100 user fee on certain General Aviation (GA) users.

The Administration's proposal would bypass the existing per-gallon system and create a new bureaucratic regime within the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to collect a new user fee. We believe the per-gallon tax assessed on aviation gasoline and jet fuel is the most efficient and effective way to generate revenue from aviation users.

We are concerned a new user fee like the one described in the Administration's budget proposal may create a disincentive for pilots and aircraft to use air traffic control services or fly in controlled airspace. Controlled airspace exists around virtually every public use airport regardless of whether there is an air traffic control facility present. By discouraging ATC use, this proposal may inadvertently create a less safe aviation environment.

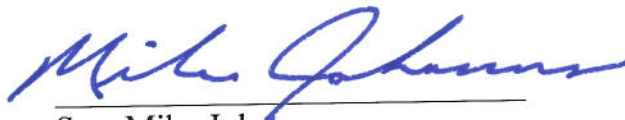
As you are aware, Congress recently passed and you signed into law a comprehensive, multi-year FAA Reauthorization bill (P.L. 112-95). This bipartisan bill was able to pass Congress in part because it did not assess new user fees on GA. We urge you to consider using the FAA Reauthorization as a framework for funding our nation's aviation system.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.


Sincerely,




Sen. Mark Begich
Co-Chair, Senate GA Caucus




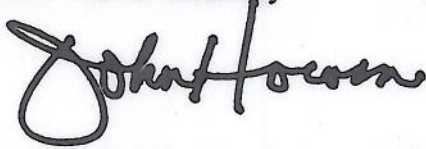
Sen. Mike Johanns
Co-Chair, Senate GA Caucus



Sen. John Barrasso

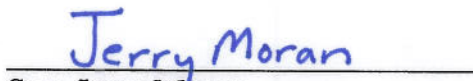

Sen. Richard Burr

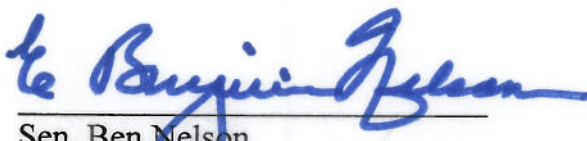

Sen. Susan Collins



Sen. Chuck Grassley

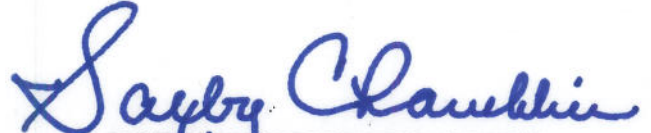

Sen. John Hoeven



Sen. Johnny Isakson


Sen. Jerry Moran


Sen. Ben Nelson

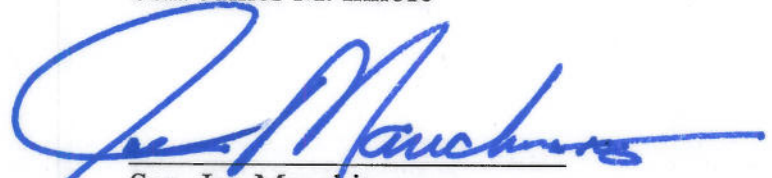

Sen. John Boozman


Sen. Saxby Chambliss

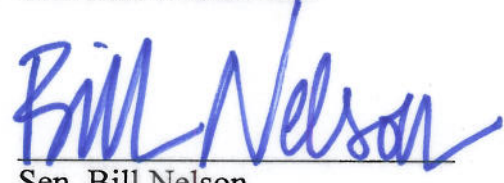

Sen. Mike Crapo

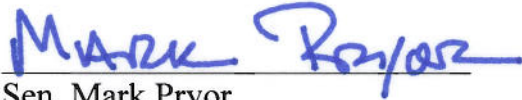

Sen. Tom Harkin


Sen. James M. Inhofe


Sen. Joe Manchin


Sen. Lisa Murkowski

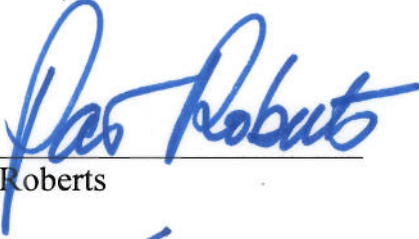

Sen. Bill Nelson



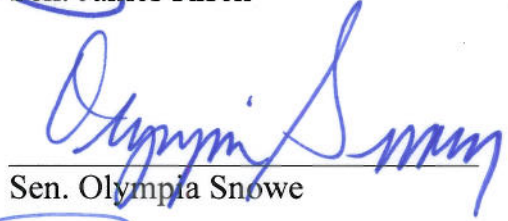
Sen. Mark Pryor



Sen. James Risch



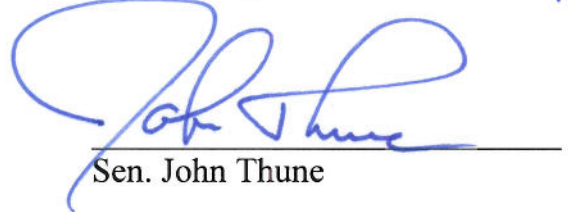
Sen. Pat Roberts



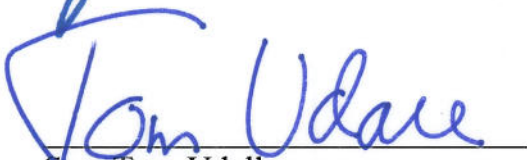
Sen. Olympia Snowe



Sen. Jon Tester



Sen. John Thune



Sen. Tom Udall



Sen. David Vitter



Sen. Roger Wicker



Sen. Ron Wyden

Cc: The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary, Department of Transportation
The Honorable Jeffrey Zients, Acting Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Michael Huerta, Acting Administrator, Federal Aviation
Administration