



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*