



March 21, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce,  
Science and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
Chairman  
Commerce, Science and  
Transportation,  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
Operations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce,  
Science and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Commerce, Science and  
Transportation,  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
Operations  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune, Ranking Member Nelson, Subcommittee Chairman Blunt, and Subcommittee Ranking Member Cantwell,

Our associations represent the individuals and companies that make up a significant portion of the diverse and interrelated general aviation industry in the United States. This is an industry that generates more than one million jobs, and more than \$200 billion for the nation's economy. It is worth noting that the majority of all general aviation in the world today takes place in the U.S. and we appreciate your support for our industry. Simply put, general aviation in America is the envy of the world.

Today, the U.S. air traffic control system is the best in the world, moving more aircraft, more safely and efficiently, than any other country. Working with Congress, aviation stakeholders have been able to ensure that our system operates for the public benefit, providing access for all stakeholders to airports, heliports and airspace, and encouraging competition and innovation.

As you know, for over a year, some big airlines have pushed for a new governance and funding model for our nation's aviation system, based on systems in other parts of the world. The general aviation community has very real and long-standing concerns, which include but are not limited to user fees. These concerns are based on our operating experiences in these foreign systems and the impact they have had on general aviation.

We respectfully request that you provide ample opportunity for all stakeholders and citizens to carefully review, analyze and debate any proposed legislation changing the governance and funding for air traffic control.

Sincerely,  
Air Care Alliance  
Aircraft Electronics Association  
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association  
Citation Jet Pilots  
Commemorative Air Force  
Experimental Aircraft Association  
General Aviation Manufacturers Association  
Helicopter Association International  
International Council of Air Shows  
National Agricultural Aviation Association  
National Association of State Aviation Officials  
National Air Transportation Association  
National Business Aviation Association  
Recreational Aviation Foundation  
U.S. Parachute Association  
Veterans Airlift Command