

December 11, 2009

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
The Honorable George Miller
The Honorable David R. Obey
The Honorable James L. Oberstar
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Harry Reid, Majority Leader
The Honorable Richard Durbin
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller
U.S. Senate

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Paula P. Hochstetler

Dear Members of Congress,

As the House and Senate consider legislation to stimulate job growth in the United States, the 240 member firms of the Airport Consultants Council (ACC) urge you to include funding for airport improvement projects. The record is clear that investing in airport infrastructure meets the goals of expending funding quickly and efficiently to create and maintain jobs.

Reviewing the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) track record in dispersing the \$1.1 billion provided in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (H.R. 1) demonstrates that funding for airports can be put to use in a very short time frame. To date, the FAA has obligated 99 percent of the \$1.1 billion in airport grants, and a total of \$352 million has been provided in outlays for airport projects. In fact, earlier this year the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) developed projected outlays under ARRA for the end of FY 2009. As of Sept. 30, the FAA more than tripled CBO's projection of the expected grant outlays for airports, far exceeding the target spend out rates of many other programs.

The members of ACC work closely with their airport clients to deliver improvement projects at airports of all sizes across the country. Our members played an integral role in helping airports get projects ready for construction and facilitating the ARRA grant process. Our experience lends credence to the fact that more airport infrastructure spending is necessary, and can be spent wisely and efficiently. A Dec. 2 survey by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials entitled *9500 Ready-to-Go Transportation Projects* reports that 16 states have 528 aviation projects totaling \$1.81 billion that are ready to go.

The funding currently available for future airport safety and facility projects falls significantly short of identified needs. ACC strongly encourages Congress to include airport infrastructure funding in future job creation legislation. The funding should be set at a level determined by FAA that can be obligated within the timeframes established by Congress. This investment will not only create and maintain jobs, but will also serve to improve the safety and performance of our nation's airport facilities.

Sincerely,



Paula P. Hochstetler
President