



**TRANSPORTATION
CONSTRUCTION
COALITION**

**We're Building A
Better America!**

American Road & Transportation Builders Association (co-chair) ■ Associated General Contractors of America (co-chair) ■ American Coal Ash Association ■ American Concrete Pavement Association ■ American Concrete Pipe Association ■ American Council of Engineering Companies ■ American Subcontractors Association ■ American Iron and Steel Institute ■ American Society of Civil Engineers ■ American Traffic Safety Services Association ■ Asphalt Emulsion Manufacturers Association ■ Asphalt Recycling & Reclaiming Association ■ Associated Equipment Distributors ■ Association of Equipment Manufacturers ■ Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute ■ International Slurry Surfacing Association ■ International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers ■ International Union of Operating Engineers ■ Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust ■ Laborers' International Union of North America ■ National Asphalt Pavement Association ■ National Association of Surety Bond Producers ■ National Electrical Contractors Association ■ National Ready Mixed Concrete Association ■ National Steel Bridge Alliance ■ National Stone, Sand and Gravel Association ■ National Utility Contractors Association ■ Portland Cement Association ■ Precast/Prestressed Concrete Institute ■ The Road Information Program ■ United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

**For More Information:
202/289-4434 (ARTBA)
703/548-3118 (AGC)**

January 14, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Representative DeFazio:

With the expiration of the current short-term extension of the federal aviation programs fast approaching, the 31 national associations and construction trade unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) urge you to ensure upgrading the nation's airport infrastructure as a major priority in any multi-year aviation reauthorization proposal.

While we understand the interest from a variety of sectors in upgrading federal air traffic control system technology and management practices, it is also clear the demands on existing airport infrastructure will continue to grow. Aviation infrastructure improvements must go hand in hand with operational enhancements to deliver maximum benefit for air travelers and the U.S. economy which rely on civil aviation as an integral component of the nation's intermodal transportation network.

The Federal Aviation Administration's Aerospace Forecast for Fiscal Years 2015 – 2035 projects passenger levels will grow from 776 million in 2015 to 1.1 billion by 2034. The latest ACI-NA Capital Needs Survey estimates airports will have more than \$15 billion in annual capital needs between 2015 and 2019. In contrast to these documented demands, Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding has been cut from its FY 2011 level of \$3.5 billion to \$3.35 billion in recent years. Furthermore, a direct user fee to support airport infrastructure, the passenger facility charge (PFC) cap has remained stagnant at \$4.50 since 2000.

As such, the members of the TCC urge you to both increase annual AIP investment to at least the \$3.5 billion that was provided in FY 2011—while ensuring that a reliable and dedicated revenue stream is continued—and raise the PFC cap to at least recapture lost purchasing power over the past 15 years as part of any reauthorization of the federal aviation programs. Airports would not be required to increase their PFC, however increasing the cap would allow individual airports to address their respective infrastructure needs. The growing demands on the nation's airport infrastructure, however, easily warrant adjustments well beyond these minimum amounts.

Thank you for your consideration of these views and we look forward to working with you to advance a comprehensive aviation bill in 2016.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition