March 9, 2018

The Honorable Paul Ryan  The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Speaker  Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. Senate
Washington, DC  20515  Washington, DC  20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader  Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives  U.S. Senate
Washington, DC  20515  Washington, DC  20510

The 31 national associations and construction trade unions of the Transportation Construction Coalition (TCC) strongly support the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) increase and Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funding level included in the Senate FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Related Agencies Appropriations.

The Federal Aviation Administration’s Aerospace Forecast for Fiscal Years 2017 – 2037 projects passenger levels will grow from 819.6 million in 2016 to 1.23 billion by 2037. The latest ACI-NA Capital Needs Survey estimates airports will have $20 billion in annual capital needs between 2017 and 2021. In contrast to these documented needs, AIP investment has been frozen at $3.35 billion for the past six years. The Senate-proposed increase of $265 million would reverse this status quo trend and support needed improvements at airports of all sizes.

Meanwhile, the PFC, a user fee in the truest form as it is only collected on departures from the airport imposing the charge, has remained capped at $4.50 since 2000. The language in the Senate Appropriations bill does not require local officials to increase their PFC – rather, it allows airports the flexibility to address their respective infrastructure needs at the local level. The combination of 18 years of purchasing power declines and growing airport infrastructure needs make PFC increase long overdue.

We recognize the focus of many in the House and Senate in upgrading civil aviation system operations, but any advances in that area will be diluted without companion infrastructure improvements. As such, we urge you to ensure any final FY 2018 appropriations package includes the Senate AIP and PFC provisions.

Sincerely,

The Transportation Construction Coalition

Cc: All Members of the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives Appropriations Committees