



April 13, 2015

The Honorable Mike McGuire
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5064
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: THE CALIFORNIA AIRPORTS COUNCIL SUPPORTS SB 747

Dear Senator McGuire:

On behalf of the California Airports Council (CAC), we would like to thank you for your authorship of SB 747. This measure will provide much needed support to California's airports by redirecting aviation fuel tax dollars to the state's aviation program as mandated by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The CAC is comprised of the 33 commercial service airports in California, serving over 192 million passengers in 2014.

In November 2014, the Federal Aviation Administration issued Docket 2013-0988, which directs all states and local jurisdictions to become compliant with long-standing regulations requiring aviation fuel tax proceeds to be used for aviation purposes (64 FR 7696). The Board of Equalization (BOE) estimates over \$36 million in revenues from state sales taxes on aviation fuels should be remitted to airports. SB 747 will begin the process of returning this needed funding to California's aviation program and will also bring the State one step closer to compliance.

Due to insufficient funding to California's network of over 240 public-use airports, including both general aviation and commercial facilities, deferred maintenance and construction has become a serious problem state-wide. In past years the State has been unable or only partially able to fund grant programs for airports, leaving many projects that would benefit safety and passenger capacity uncompleted. Returning fuel tax revenues to airports will benefit the vitality of our aviation system, job production, and the California economy.

Thank you for your support of this important matter and we appreciate the opportunity to share the significance of this legislation to our industry. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 553-4999 or jlites@calairportscouncil.org.

Sincerely,


Jim Lites,
Executive Director