



January 14, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
House of Representatives  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo  
Chairman  
Aviation Subcommittee  
House of Representatives  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
House of Representatives  
2163 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen  
Ranking Member  
Aviation Subcommittee  
House of Representatives  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Shuster and LoBiondo and Ranking Members DeFazio and Larsen:

On behalf of the California Airports Council (CAC), we write in strong support of efforts to modernize our nation's airports through legislation to reauthorize programs at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We all have a vested interest in ensuring that our airports remain not only gateways to our country, and the rest of the world, but also strong economic engines and job centers for our local communities.

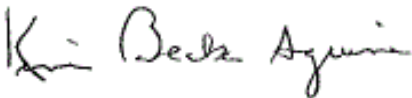
The CAC is comprised of the 34 commercial service airports operating in the state of California. Together our airports manage over 13% of the nation's passenger traffic which equates to over 180 million passengers annually. Ten of our airports currently rank in the nation's top 100 busiest airports.

We firmly believe that modernizing airport infrastructure is the best option for strengthening our nation's aviation system to meet the needs of today and the challenges of tomorrow. California's airports are powerful economic engines, generating more than \$62 billion in annual activity and supporting more than 300,000 jobs. However, our airports' needs far exceed both state and federal funding availability for infrastructure improvements to update aging facilities, relieve delays and congestion, promote safety and security, enhance the passenger experience, as well as spur airline competition to provide consumers with more choices and affordable options.

At a time when there is mounting pressure to reduce federal spending, modernizing the system that allows airports to set a locally-determined fee for use of their facilities is the most free-market option to provide airports with the locally controlled self-help needed to finance critical infrastructure projects. These measures would give our airports the tools they need to ensure the continued safety, security, and modernization of our facilities.

The CAC, along with our partners at Airports Council International – North America, the American Association of Airport Executives, and the U.S. Travel Association’s Gateway Airports Council, stands ready to work with you to achieve a forward-looking FAA reauthorization bill that benefits passengers and strengthens our nation’s aviation system.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kim Becker Aguirre". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kim Becker Aguirre C.A.E.  
President, California Airports Council

Copies: California Congressional Delegation