



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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September 15, 2010

Dear Senator:

With a short legislative calendar remaining for this Congress, I urge you to pass a comprehensive reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration as your first order of business. The current "short-term" extension expires September 30, and the agency simply cannot continue to operate under a series of stopgap measures.

The FAA reauthorization legislation includes many important safety components that are critical to those of us who fly airplanes as a profession and all who rely on air travel. Of immediate interest to pilots are provisions related to volcanic ash and wind-shear warning systems, the impact on aircraft operations of weather such as icing, and improving runway safety -- long a "most wanted" item of the National Transportation Safety Board.

Moreover, modernizing our airspace and operations is critical to the future of our industry. Every day, airline pilots see firsthand that our current air traffic control system is outdated and that air travel could be much more efficient given the proper resources and federal commitment. A multi-year, comprehensive bill will provide the FAA with a blueprint to move forward on NextGen and operate more efficiently. This transition to NextGen is absolutely necessary if we expect to handle the projected increase in air travel in the coming years, knowing that passenger levels are expected to double by 2025.

It is time to put partisan and regional differences aside. The reliability of our national aviation system is at risk if action is delayed. On behalf of the 53,000 ALPA pilots, please pass and send this bill to the President before adjournment.

Sincerely,

John H. Prater
President

JHP:jc