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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4708

August 1, 2011

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
Chairman
Committee on Science, Commerce,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Committee on Science, Commerce,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Chairman Rockefeller and Ranking Member Hutchison:

I respectfully urge the Senate to take up at least a short-term extension of Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) authorities as soon as possible. While I am hopeful that both chambers can come together and pass a longer term FAA reauthorization bill, a stopgap extension is needed in the interim. The current lapse since legislative authority expired on July 22, 2011 is harming the provision of necessary services to air travelers, progress on airport improvement projects nationwide, and denying FAA workers like the 209 in my district and the 215 in Washington State from receiving paychecks.

The House has passed legislation (H.R. 2553, the *Airport and Airway Extension Act, Part IV*) that would provide a short-term extension for the FAA along with common-sense reforms to the Essential Air Service program. The Senate previously agreed to these reforms when it passed S. 227, the *FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act* in February, 2011. While the longer-term reauthorization is ideal, the Senate should pass an extension in the interim to resolve this situation in the most expeditious way.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Reichert".

Dave Reichert
Member of Congress