

May 6, 2024

The Honorable Sam Graves, Chair
The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



25 Massachusetts Ave NW, Suite 500
Washington D.C., 20001
(202) 789.7850 main ■ www.ASCE.org

Dear Chair Graves and Ranking Member Larsen,

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) commends you for your continued work on legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We applaud you for your leadership in reaching a compromise and unveiling the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. We urge you to work with your counterparts in the Senate and your colleagues in the House of Representatives to approve this important legislation before the short-term extension currently funding the FAA expires May 10.

ASCE considers passage of a multi-year FAA reauthorization bill a top legislative priority. As the professionals responsible for designing and operating the country's built environment, civil engineers recognize the importance of safe and reliably funded aviation infrastructure. Our aviation system allows people to travel to their destinations, facilitates the movement of goods, and plays a key role in the nation's economy.

Since introduction of both the House-led Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act and the Senate-led FAA Reauthorization Act of 2023, ASCE has been a part of the conversation and has expressed support for both bills. We would now like to reiterate our support for this compromise legislation, which offers reliable support for programs that are vital for the safety, growth, and resilience of our system. In particular, ASCE appreciates the strong support given to the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), which is a major source of infrastructure investment funding for airports. The \$20 billion included for AIP grants will help airports meet growing infrastructure needs.

We would also like to commend the bill's emphasis on improving safety, particularly in light of the near misses and other incidents that have taken place over the last year and a half. Notable proposals include the development of a Runway Safety Council to develop strategies to address surface safety risks and the requirement for the FAA to develop technologies and equipment that improve onboard situational awareness for flight crewmembers in an effort to enhance the safety of ground operations. Safety is the watchword of the civil engineering profession, and we appreciate the provisions that aim to make air travel safer for passengers and system operators.

Across all sectors of infrastructure, ASCE supports resilience, and we appreciate the bill's inclusion of these subjects. We are especially grateful for the provision in the bill that charges the FAA administrator to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to assess the resiliency of coastal or flood-prone areas.

Again, we would like to express our support for the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. ASCE strongly urges Congress to approve a bipartisan, multi-year FAA reauthorization bill before the current short-term extension expires May 10. Short-term authorizations and lapses in authorization are disruptive for

those who use and operate transportation systems. A prompt, multi-year reauthorization would prevent uncertainty with future projects and FAA programming.

We recognize and appreciate the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's dedication to bipartisanship in working on this legislation. We ask you to urge your colleagues in the House to approve this legislation once the Senate has passed it. ASCE stands ready to assist you as you continue to work with your colleagues on this important bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Caroline Sevier". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and a long, sweeping tail.

Caroline Sevier

Managing Director, Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives