

May 15, 2024

The Honorable Chuck Schumer, Majority Leader
The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

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

The Honorable Mike Johnson, Speaker of the House
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries, Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Sens. Schumer and McConnell and Reps. Johnson and Jeffries,

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), which represents 160,000 members of the civil engineering profession, would like to thank you for approving legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We applaud you for your leadership in reaching a compromise with the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 and passing this important bill in a bipartisan manner.

ASCE has long considered 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 the 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. When the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 was unveiled, we reiterated our support for the legislation, which offers reliable funding 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 nearly \$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 establishment of a Runway Safety Council to craft 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 this subject. 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 thank you for your leadership in passing the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. We realize the path to reauthorization involved many months of negotiating and collaborating. A bipartisan, multi-year FAA reauthorization provides certainty for future airport projects that can make our nation's aviation system safer and more efficient. ASCE stands ready to assist you as implementation of this important legislation gets underway.

Sincerely,

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

Caroline Sevier

Managing Director, Government Relations and Infrastructure Initiatives