

THE NEW ENGLAND COUNCIL

June 30, 2023

Members of the N.E. House Delegation
House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Delegation Member:

On behalf of The New England Council, I would like to request that you support passage of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill, the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (H.R. 3935) when this legislation is debated and brought to a vote in the House of Representatives. Introduced earlier this month and passed out of Committee on June 14th, this bipartisan bill will go a long way toward ensuring that the programs and policies of the FAA not only continue without disruption, but that key new provisions will be able to enhance our critical transportation network to the benefit of all those who rely upon it.

As you are aware, our commercial aviation system was one of the most severely impacted elements of the national economy during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the nation's aviation sector is finally recovering to pre-pandemic levels. In that time, there have been some "fits and starts" that have impacted airlines and airports, passengers and workers, and many other related industries and communities. With that experience, much has been learned about how we should move forward toward renewing existing aviation law, what new protections should be added, and what existing methods should be reconsidered.

As passed by the Committee, the \$104 billion five-year bill will provide \$4 billion per year for airport planning and development (including airport noise programs); \$17.225 billion over five years for facilities and equipment; and a total of roughly \$66.7 billion over five years for FAA operations. As noted by the authors, the major components of H.R. 3935 would seek to improve FAA efficiency and operations; strengthen the nation's general aviation sector; grow the aviation workforce; invest in airport infrastructure; enhance safety; encourage innovation; enhance the passenger experience; and authorize the National Transportation Safety Board.

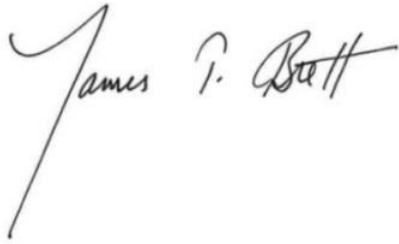
The individuals who drafted the legislation that will soon be considered by the House of Representatives – Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Sam Graves (R-MO), Ranking Member Rick Larsen (D-WA), Aviation Subcommittee Chairman Garret Graves (R-LA) and Ranking Member Steve Cohen (D-TN) – have given careful consideration to the vast range of issues that are top of mind to the traveling public and the entire aviation industry and concomitant businesses. Add to that, the members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee provided their unanimous support – voting 63 to 0 – to report this bill to the floor of the House. They have pieced together a thoughtful, bipartisan bill that should enjoy the support of a majority of Congress.

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We can all take heart that the aviation industry is well on its way to fully rebounding from the pandemic; renewing and upgrading the law that governs this important industry will help ensure that this recovery is complete. We urge passage of this bipartisan legislation – the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act – for the benefit of businesses and residents across New England and our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Brett". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J".

James T. Brett
President & CEO

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