

March 6, 2017

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

As you debate reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), I write to ask you to reject any risky plans to privatize our air traffic control system and take away Congressional oversight of this important public system.

Over the last year, proposals have recently been forwarded to put this vital infrastructure under the control of a private entity dominated by the commercial airlines. On behalf of the tens of thousands of communities around the country, we are concerned about the very real and dire ramifications of eliminating Congressional oversight-of this public air transportation infrastructure.

For tens of thousands of communities such as ours around the country, we depend on our local airport and all sectors of transportation to reach far-off markets and access critical services such as law enforcement, disaster relief, and medical care. Small aircraft and airports are utilized on a daily basis to help transport blood and organs to residents in rural communities, reunite veterans back from overseas with their families, maintain power lines, and help our companies reach customers in far-off markets, among many other priorities.

Privatization would hand over decisions about infrastructure funding, taxes and fees, consumer complaints, noise, and many other priorities, to a board of private interests dominated by the commercial airlines. These are the same airlines that have cut back flights to smaller communities by more than 20 percent in recent years, and have stated their intent to divert investment from small and mid-sized communities to large ones where the airlines are most profitable.

We are also concerned about costs and access. For example, the Canadian, privatized system, which is often held up as the system the U.S. should emulate, is more expensive than the system we have in the US by miles flown. In the U.K., that system has seen "more delays, higher fares and reduced connectivity" at London's airports since privatization. So while we all agree that modernizing our air traffic control system and investing in American infrastructure should be among our highest priorities, privatization is not the answer.

We look forward to working with you throughout this process to ensure that our air transportation system protects communities of all sizes and keeps passengers flying safely and efficiently.

Sincerely,

Elmira, NY - Mayor Daniel J. Mandell  
Clarksburg, WV - Mayor Catherine A. Goings  
Ocala, FL - Mayor Kent Guinn  
Corning, NY - Mayor Richard P. Negri  
Mitchell, SD - Mayor Jerry Toomey  
Fairmont, WV - Mayor Ronald J. Straight Sr.  
Edgemont, SD - Mayor Carl A. Shaw  
Warwick, NY - Michael J. Newhard  
Texarkana, AR - Mayor Ruth Penney Bell  
Easton, MD - Mayor Robert C. Willey  
Watertown, SD - Mayor Steve Thorson  
Fayetteville, AR - Mayor Lioneld Jordan  
Huron, SD - Mayor Paul Aylward  
Texarkana, TX - Mayor Bob Bruggeman  
Bloomington, IL - Mayor Tari Renner  
Chillicothe, MO – Mayor Charles E. Haney  
Lewisburg, WV - Mayor John Manchester  
Worcester, MA - Mayor Joseph M. Petty  
Elkins, WV Mayor Van T. Broughton  
Wall, SD - Mayor Marty Huether  
Sturgis, SD - Mayor Mark C. Carstensen  
Longmont, CO - Mayor Dennis Coombs  
Albert Lea, MN - Mayor Vern Rasmussen Jr.  
Lake Wales, FL - Mayor Eugene Fultz  
Santa Barbara, CA - Mayor Helene Schneider  
Riverside, CA - Mayor William Bailey  
McCall, ID - Mayor Jackie J. Aymon  
Sioux Falls, SD - Mayor Mike Huether  
Concord, NC - Mayor Scott Padgett  
Prospect Heights, IL - Mayor Nicholas Helmer  
Mountain Home, ID - Mayor Rich Sykes  
Lewiston, ID - Mayor Jim Kleeburg  
Florence, SC - Mayor Stephen J. Wukela  
Fernley, NV - Mayor Roy G. Edgington Jr.  
Huntington, WV - Mayor Steve Williams  
Morristown, NJ - Mayor Timothy Dougherty  
Macomb, IL - Mayor Michael J. Inman  
Kamiah, ID - Mayor Dale Schneider  
Mesquite, NV - Mayor Allan Litman  
Mount Pleasant, SC - Mayor Linda Page  
Newport, OR - Mayor Sandy Roumagoux  
Jacksonville, IL – Mayor Andy Ezard  
Broomfield, CO - Mayor Randy Ahrens  
Petaluma, CA - Mayor David Glass

DeLand, FL - Mayor Robert F. Apgar  
Jackson, TN - Mayor Jerry Gist  
Gainesville, FL - Mayor Lauren Poe  
Annapolis, MD - Mayor Mike Pantelides  
Fernandina Beach, FL - Mayor John A. Miller  
Naples, FL - Mayor Bill Barnett  
Fargo, ND - Mayor Tim Mahoney  
Sedalia, MO - Mayor Stephen Galliher  
Wenatchee, WA - Mayor Frank Kuntz  
Coeur d'Alene, ID - Mayor Steve Widmyer  
Cumberland, MD - Mayor Brian Grim  
Keene, NH - Mayor Kendall Lane  
Zanesville, OH - Mayor Jeff Tilton  
Youngstown, OH - Mayor John McNally IV  
Henderson, NV - Mayor Andy Hafen  
Big Rapids, MI - Mayor Mark Warba  
Pinedale, WY - Mayor Bob Jones  
Pekin, IL - Mayor John McCabe  
Hermiston, OR - Dr. Dave Drotzmann, Mayor  
Wausau, WI - Mayor Robert Mielke  
Danbury, CT - Mayor Mark D. Boughton  
New London, CT - Mayor Michael Passero  
Idaho Falls, ID - Mayor Rebecca L. Noah Casper  
Valdez, AK - Mayor Ruth E. Knight  
Brigham City, UT - Mayor Tyler Vincent  
Salisbury, MD - Mayor Jacob R. Day  
Ely, MN - Mayor Chuck Novak  
Winona, MN - Mayor Mark Peterson  
New Ulm, MN - Mayor Robert J. Beussman  
Wasilla, AK - Mayor Bert Cottle  
Barre, VT - Mayor Thom Lauzon  
Yerington, NV - Mayor George Dini  
Taos, NM - Mayor Daniel Barrone  
Arlington, WA - Mayor Barbara Tolbert  
Boulder, CO - Mayor Suzanne Jones  
Pullman, WA - Mayor Glenn A. Johnson, Ph.D.  
Abilene, TX - Mayor Norm Archibald  
Monroe, NC - Mayor Bobby Kilgore  
Moscow, ID - Mayor Bill Lambert  
Georgetown, DE - Mayor William E. West  
Kenai, AK - Mayor Brian G. Gabriel, Sr.  
Riverton, WY - Mayor John 'Lars' Baker  
Grant, NE - Mayor Michael Wyatt  
Findlay, OH - Mayor Lydia Mihalik  
Martinsburg, WV - Mayor George Karos  
Bingen, WA - Mayor Betty J. Barnes

Zephyrhills, FL Mayor Gene Whitfield  
Terre Haute, IN - Mayor Duke Bennett  
Carrollton, GA - Mayor Walt Hollingsworth  
Altus, OK - Mayor Jack Smiley  
Wheeling, WV - Mayor Glenn F. Elliott, Jr.  
Salinas, CA - Mayor Joe Gunter  
Hays, KS - Mayor Shaun Musil  
Augusta, ME - Mayor David Rollins  
Pendleton, OR - Mayor Phillip W. Houk  
Hot Springs, AR - Mayor Ruth Carney  
Fallon, NV - Mayor Ken Tedford Jr.  
Latrobe, PA - Mayor Rosie Wolford  
Le Mars, IA - Mayor Dick Kirchoff  
Hutchinson, KS - Mayor Jon Daveline  
Council Bluffs, IA - Mayor Matt Walsh  
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Henderson, KY - Mayor Steve Austin  
Kaua'i County, HI - Mayor Bernard Carvalho  
Natchitoches, LA - Mayor Lee Posey  
Jonesville, VA - Mayor Jim Ewing  
Cottonwood, AZ - Mayor Tim Elinski  
Tuscaloosa, AL - Mayor Walt Maddox  
Tucson, AZ - Mayor Jonathan Rothschild  
Clarksdale, MS - Mayor Bill Lockett  
Baker, MT - Mayor JoDee Pratt  
Great Falls, MT - Mayor Bob Kelly  
Middletown, RI – Town Council President Robert Sylvia  
Wichita, KS – Mayor Jeff Longwell