



Representative Bill Shuster
Chairman
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee
United States House of Representatives
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

We the undersigned write to express concern that proposals being considered in the coming months as part of the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) could serve as a mere pretext for imposing new net increases in taxes or fees.

Specifically, the lack of detailed information released regarding current efforts to reform the air traffic control (ATC) system is troublesome, leaving many worried that ATC may include higher net costs. With projected air-traffic-control modernization costs estimated to top \$30 billion and the likely phase-out of revenue from general budget funds, many cannot escape the conclusion that these fiscal pressures might lead the committee to pass along to a new entity the mandate to raise the overall tax-and-fee levels.

Press reports suggest that the committee's proposal will include giving a new ATC provision entity the power to levy new -- and future -- taxes and user fees on American consumers. This is especially worrisome, as the proposed ATC provider would no longer be accountable to voters, removing what is now a key - even decisive - check on tax and spending levels.

Additionally, we hope that any effort to separate out our air traffic control system from the FAA is not an attempt to avoid spending limits associated with sequestration cuts. We understand that our nation faces serious budget and funding challenges, but we remain wary of the assumption that simply taking things "off the

books” will achieve the serious cost-cutting discipline that our country needs, especially if they are counted as "savings" in the calculation of sequestration limits.

As a result, we ask for your assurances that the Committee’s proposal does not include any current or future net tax-and-fee increases, and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Mazzella
President
Center for Individual Freedom

Phil Kerpen
President
American Commitment

Tom Giovanetti
President
Institute for Policy Innovation

Seton Motley
President
Less Government

Matthew Kandrach
Vice President
60 Plus Association