



Dear Chairman Murray:

We appreciate your support for the next-generation air traffic control system (NextGen) and the efforts to accelerate its implementation. However, we remain very concerned about the lack of funding for one of the most critical steps needed in this regard – equipping all civil and military aircraft with NextGen technologies. If aircraft are not properly equipped, the benefits of NextGen will be delayed for controllers, pilots and, most importantly, the traveling public. These benefits include enhanced safety, increased fuel efficiency and therefore, drastically reduced CO2 emissions.

Given the economic condition of our industry, it is simply not feasible to think the industry can pay for these new systems anytime soon. As such, it is our belief that, at a minimum, any new transportation innovative financing proposals in the 2010 Transportation-HUD Appropriations conference report, whether it is a National Infrastructure “Fund” or “Bank”, include equipage as an eligible investment. While other actions will be needed, by including eligibility for equipage in an infrastructure bank or fund, you will have taken an important first step in addressing this critical component of NextGen.

These investments can be compared favorably to those the federal government is undertaking for other modes of transportation and technologies – most notably high speed rail and important safety technologies like positive train control. We respect the support for these new initiatives but believe support should be extended to the aviation sector particularly when the federal government is solely responsible for air traffic control and could achieve significant benefits through this equipage.

We appreciate your leadership on this and look forward to working together on this important initiative.

Sincerely

Marion Blakey
President & CEO, AIA

Craig Fuller
President & CEO, AOPA

Cc: The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye



Brian Dubie
Chairman, ASA



Jim May
President & CEO, ATA



Pete Dumont
President & CEO, ATCA



Steve Alterman
President, CAA



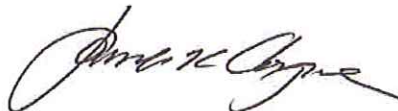
Tom Poberezny
Chairman & President, EAA



Pete Bunce
President & CEO, GAMA



Tom Zoeller
President, NACA



James Coyne
President, NATA



Patrick Forrey
President, NATCA



Ed Bolen,
President & CEO, NBAA



Michael McCormick
Executive Director & COO, NBTA



Roger Cohen
President, RAA