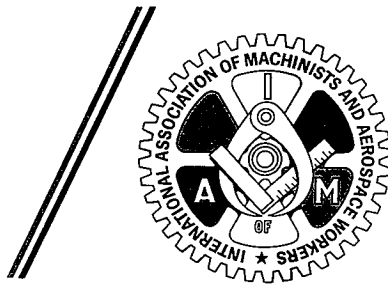


**International
Association of
Machinists and
Aerospace Workers**



9000 Machinists Place
Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772-2687

Area Code 301
967-4500



OFFICE OF THE INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

GL-2 Legislative
March 1, 2010
Subject: FAA Reauthorization Bill

Dear Senator,

On behalf of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the largest airline union in North America representing more than 100,000 airline employees, **we strongly urge you to support the passage of the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act “the FAA Reauthorization” bill (S. 1451) and reject any procedural vote that would prevent this important legislation from moving forward expeditiously.**

Congress has not passed a comprehensive FAA Reauthorization bill since 2003, and the most recent temporary extension will expire on March 31, 2010. With only a few short weeks ahead of us before the next congressional recess, we want to emphasize how important a comprehensive reauthorization is to aviation workers and the industry.

The FAA bill addresses long-overdue safety priorities. Specifically, we are pleased that the bill includes OSHA protections for flight attendants. It also has several significant studies to better understand the effects of flight crew fatigue and cabin air quality. The bill includes enhancements related to runway safety and aircraft repair stations that will ensure the safety and protections of millions of Americans.

The NextGen air traffic control system called for in the FAA bill will make our system safer and more efficient. Transitioning from a ground-based system to a satellite-based system is vital to meeting future demand and avoiding gridlock in the skies at our busiest airports. NextGen will also open the U.S. aviation industry to continued growth—a benefit that is especially important given the tough economic climate this industry faces.

These are all very important enhancements that are encompassed in the FAA bill. We respectfully urge you to vote for the swift passage of the FAA bill and oppose any procedural votes that would prevent this legislation from moving forward. It is time for the Senate to act and pass a strong FAA bill.

Sincerely,

R. Thomas Buffenbarger
International President

HS/tz