Statement on Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization

- Federal policies must recognize the link between our nation's aviation network and jobs, economic development, global competitiveness, quality of life, and national security. The nation's economy relies on a safe, secure and efficient aviation system.

- Congress and the President must complete reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in a timely manner in order to avoid disruption to essential aviation services and programs.

- This legislation must transform our aviation system, in order to meet an expected doubling in aviation over the next ten years, by expediting air traffic modernization and by providing adequate investment to increase national aviation system capacity.

- While the FAA has made progress in controlling operational costs, additional cost reduction must be identified. The FAA should use technology, internal cost management and other improvements to enhance its productivity. Concrete plans for cost reduction and increased efficiency should be part of FAA reauthorization.

- New technologies which are already available or in advanced stages of development can increase the capacity and capability of the air transportation system while, at the same time, enhancing safety and decreasing its cost of operation. A clear technology roadmap must be laid out including timing, investment, and funding requirements for both the FAA and aviation stakeholders. Industry stakeholders should be an integral part of the decision making process for the application and costs associated with a phase-in of new technology.

- Congress should increase investment in aviation infrastructure and technology as needed to prepare the nation's airport and airway systems for future demands. Investment should be targeted to projects that increase national aviation system capacity and safety.

- Congress should increase the General Fund contribution to the operation and improvement of an aviation system that benefits all Americans.

Specifically, this contribution meets several vital national interests including: national defense; emergency preparedness; postal delivery; medical emergencies; and full implementation of a national air transportation system.

- Congress must provide budget firewalls ensuring all dedicated aviation revenues are utilized exclusively for authorized aviation purposes.

- The Airport and Airway Trust Fund should not be used to pay for security costs but specifically for air traffic and airport maintenance and improvement.

- The federal government must further streamline the project review and approval process to ensure the completion of infrastructure improvements in a timely and environmentally sound manner in order to meet air transportation needs.

- Aviation capital needs exceed available funding. Therefore, support for initiatives for targeted airport and airway programs that foster innovative finance and project delivery (such as public-private partnerships) should be expanded to build and manage aviation projects, where feasible.

- Congress must provide a national air transportation system that ensures continued air service which serves as key economic development tools to communities nationwide.