



Antony Tyler
Director General & CEO

9 February 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman
U.S. House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
2163 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo, Chair
U.S. House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Aviation
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
U.S. House Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Aviation
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman LoBiondo, and Ranking Member Larsen:

On behalf of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), I am writing to express our support for the Committee's effort to modernize the U.S. air traffic control (ATC) system through the creation of an independent, corporatized non-profit entity to perform ATC services.¹

A modernized and efficient U.S. ATC system is critical to the future growth of global commercial aviation. We recognize that the decision to move from a government agency to a corporatized entity should not be taken lightly. However, after more than 20 years of debate in the United States and after similar (and successful) modernization efforts around the world, we believe that now is the time to move forward with this historic transformation. The arguments are clear:

- **Safety:** Safety will always be the highest priority for IATA and its member airlines. We are confident that the corporatized ATC will maintain the laudable safety record achieved by the FAA. In fact, we believe that the separation of the operator and regulator of air traffic services, a concept endorsed by the International Civil Aviation Organization, will clarify the FAA's regulatory oversight of ATC and further enhance the safety of this already safe system.

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¹ Delta Airlines does not support the content of this letter

International Air Transport Association

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- **Efficiency:** The structure offers the opportunity to manage the airspace in a more rational and efficient manner than can be achieved with today's structure. The experience of our members suggests that corporatized ATCs offer the opportunity of reduced ATC operating costs.
- **Budgetary certainty:** The unpredictable Congressional budget process essentially guarantees continued delays in NextGen and future ATC modernization efforts. The new model will allow for budgetary certainty as well as access to capital markets for much needed investments in growth.

We look forward to supporting the Committee on this historic initiative.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'ASPL', written in a cursive style.

cc: Members of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee