November 17, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Vice Chair
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Collins, Vice Chair Murray, Chair Cole, and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Last week, we urged Congress to act swiftly and provide vital funding for the modern, resilient aviation system the American people deserve. Less than 24 hours later, the urgent need for this investment became undeniable when outdated, legacy equipment disrupted aircraft communications and radar feeds - forcing the FAA to initiate a nationwide ground stop.

To deliver a state-of-the-art, brand-new Air Traffic Control system to the American public, the FAA needs Congress to accelerate further investment in the National Airspace System (NAS). This new system will require significant infrastructure improvements, including constructing Air Route Traffic Control Centers (ARTCCs) and Airport Traffic Control Towers (ATCT), as well as airport safety improvements.

The Administration urges Congress to provide $50.1 billion to deliver a truly world-class air traffic control network.

This funding request includes:

1. Air Traffic Control Modernization ($10.1 billion), which includes $7.2 billion for implementation of a common automation platform and common controller workstations; $2 billion for cloud computing and national airspace system telecommunications, $600 million for strategic air traffic flow management technologies; and $300 million for consolidation of terminal air traffic control facilities;

2. Airport Infrastructure ($10 billion), which includes $5 billion for discretionary grants under the Airport Improvement Program and $5 billion for discretionary grants under the Airport Terminal Program discretionary grants.
3. Terminal Pilot Program ($10 billion), which provides targeted funding to replace, modernize or fully reconstruct aging terminals at high-impact transitional hub airports.
4. Air Route Traffic Control Centers ($10 billion), which provides for the design, site selection, land acquisition, and construction of up to five new consolidated Air Route Traffic Control Centers to address the aging and deterioration of the current existing legacy 1960's ARTCCs that are beyond their service life.
5. Air Traffic Control Towers (ATCT) ($10 billion), which provides for the construction, replacement, and improvement of up to 140 FAA-owned air traffic control towers that are essential to the safety, efficiency, and resiliency of the NAS.

Congressional approval of these funds will equip the FAA to deliver to the American people a brand-new air traffic control system that is safer, smarter, faster, and more efficient.

Sincerely,

Sean P. Duffy
Secretary of Transportation

Russell T. Vought
Director, Office of Management and Budget

Bryan K. Bedford
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration