



**Wichita Airport Authority**

June 20, 2017

The Honorable Jerry Moran  
521 Dirksen  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Pat Roberts  
109 Hart  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Estes  
2452 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Thune, Chairman  
Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

I am writing on behalf of the Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport in Wichita, Kansas to express our opposition to proposals to privatize our nation's air traffic control (ATC) system as part of the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization legislation. Privatizing our air traffic control system would jeopardize jobs and economic activity in Wichita.

While the current ATC system is in need of equipment modernization, technology upgrades, and a stable source of money for operations and capital infrastructure, privatization is not the solution. Privatization would put General Aviation (GA) at risk. Nationwide, GA is a \$219 billion industry that contributes more than 1 percent to our GDP and employs 1.1 million workers who make a living building, developing, operating, and servicing the world's leading aircraft. In Kansas, GA supports over 42,000 jobs and contributes \$2.8 billion in labor income and \$8.3 billion to the state's total economic output.

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Without a vibrant GA activity in this country, the primary source of new pilots would dry up. Furthermore, our GA pilot training industry, which is the best in the world, would be weakened, if not destroyed. Rural communities would lose access to the national air transportation System, and would lose essential medical evacuation services that are provided by GA aircraft. In addition, aerial crop spraying services, photography and surveying missions, and firefighting missions would be disrupted.

Since the ATC privatization proposals create a board of directors with large presence from the airlines, the board would no doubt make decisions and set user fees in a manner that would benefit the airline users of the airspace and penalize the GA users. In most of the other countries that have privatized ATC, GA has practically disappeared as a result of the system favoring airlines. And the eradication of GA would be of serious concern to us.

I believe that there are certain essential public safety and national security functions that should remain under governmental control, with oversight and accountability to the public. A corporatized Air Traffic Control system would lose that accountability, and the ability to accommodate without prejudice all users of the system, including airline passenger service, General and Business Aviation, military operations, and even new entrants such as UAS and space operations.

As Congress moves forward with Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization legislation, I hope you will support protection of General Aviation by keeping ATC within the FAA.

As always, we appreciate your support of Wichita's airport system and aviation activities in the Air Capital of the World.

Sincerely,



Victor D. White, A.A.E.  
Director of Airports

Cc: Mayor Jeff Longwell  
Airport Advisory Board Chair Dr. Thom Rosenberg  
City Manager Robert Layton