General Aviation and Local Airports: Challenges and Opportunities
Previous authorization expired at the end of September 2007. May 2007: The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 was introduced in the Senate.

The Senate Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee, in conjunction with certain private interests, were pushing a user-fee-based payment structure tied to privatization of the air traffic control system.

The Senate Finance Committee did not endorse the user fee and instead adjusted the fuel tax.

June 2007: The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 was introduced in the House. The House version did not include user fees.

September 2007: The House passed the bill.
23 Short-Term Extensions

- No long-term authorization was passed, resulting in 23 short-term measures between 2007 and 2012

- June 2009: Labor advocates pushed a measure to place FedEx employees under the jurisdiction of National Labor Relations Act, as opposed to the Railway Labor Act

- February 2011: Disagreement on how many flights will be allowed in and out of Reagan National Airport

- July 2011: FAA partially shut down for two weeks due to failure of Congress to pass a short-term extension; 4,000 FAA employees and 70,000 airport construction workers furloughed
2012 FAA Reauthorization

- FAA Reauthorization & Reform Act of 2012 passed February, 2012

- Passed under the shadow of mandatory budget cuts required by 2013

- Airport Improvement Program (AIP) funded at $3.35 billion per year, down from $3.5 billion

- Reduced EAS by $50 million between 2012 and 2015, and added requirements for qualifying communities
2013 Sequestration

- August 2011: Budget Control Act of 2011 required the “super committee” to cut $1.5 trillion over ten years

- January 2013: Mandated across-the-board budget cuts took effect when the super committee failed to reach an agreement

- Total sequestration cuts:
  - $85.3 billion in 2013,
  - $109.3 billion per year from 2014 to 2021

- May 2013: 149 Contract Towers scheduled to be closed, remained open after public outcry, $253 million taken from AIP to pay

- October 2013: Government shutdown causes 15,000 FAA employees to be furloughed
2015 FAA Reauthorization

- Current authorization expires September 30th

- Current Debates
  - Passenger Facility Charge
  - Drones
  - AIP Funding
  - Privatization
    - “The next FAA reauthorization should be transformational. We’ve got to do something different. We need to lay the groundwork for the future of U.S. aviation.”
      - Congressman Bill Shuster, *The Hill*, 9/16/14
    - “My conclusion is that the nonprofit corporation model with stakeholder governance is the best organizational form.”
      - Robert Poole (Reason Foundation), Aviation Subcommittee Hearing 3/24/15
    - “Our work to date leads us to believe that a commercialized, non-profit type governance structure would deliver the greatest benefits for a reformed ATC entity…”
      - Doug Parker (Airlines for America), Aviation Subcommittee Hearing 3/24/15
Other Challenges Facing General Aviation

Tax loopholes for corporate jets or investments in jobs and education?
Congress can avert automatic and dangerous cuts by taking a balanced approach to deficit reduction

In millions of dollars

- 600,000 pregnant women and children: $375
- 70,000 children and 14,000 teachers and staff: $353
- 1,000,000 disadvantaged children and 10,500 teachers and aides: $951
- 125,000 families: $750
- 7,400 teachers, and staff: $650
- More than $650
- More than $750
- Corporate jet loophole (over 10 years): $3,200
- In millions of dollars

The Perks of Private Flying
Welcome to the Airport for Nobody

General Aviation Has An Important Story To Tell

- General Aviation Generates $219 Billion Annually And Supports More Than 1.1 Million Jobs

- Public Services Include
  - Fire Fighting
    - U.S. Forest Service Contracts Smaller Aircraft to Fight Wildfires And Transport Firefighters
  - Agricultural-Use
    - 71 Million Acres Treated Annually By Aerial Applicators In The United States
  - Medical Care
    - Air Medical Service Responds To Emergencies Every 90 Seconds Across The United States
  - Charitable Flights
    - Air Charity Network Has 40,000 Flight Requests A Year
Priorities for General Aviation, Airports and Local Communities

- Raise awareness about how small airports and general aviation support local economies and communities.

- Ensure that any changes to our air transportation system protect the needs and interests of all stakeholders, citizens and communities – large and small.

- Prevent harmful user fees and protect AIP funding, as Congress has done consistently in the past and ensure that those governing our air transportation system are accountable to citizens and communities, not profits, private shareholders or stakeholders.
Launched in 2007 with the goal of educating the public and elected officials about the importance of general aviation.

The Alliance has grown to over 6,300 individuals and associations.

About a quarter of Alliance members are not in aviation-related industries and organizations.

Tennessee Governor Declares September ‘Aviation Appreciation Month’

Activity In Your State
Visit the Local & State Activity Center to see what is happening in your state.

Take Action
Contact Your Mayor Today
The Alliance recently released a petition from over 100 Mayors from 48 states to President Obama calling on the President to recognize the value of general aviation. We need your help to reach out to your Mayor or City/Town Manager to sign the petition and tell the President to support general aviation and airports, which are a crucial lifeline to communities around the country.

State-By-State Economic Impact
Learn about the impact of general aviation on local economies and communities, and how it drives over 1.2 million jobs and billions in economic activity.
Alliance Board Members

- Air Care Alliance
- Aircraft Owners And Pilots Association
- Experimental Aircraft Association
- Helicopter Association International
- League Of Rural Voters
- National Air Transportation Association
- National Association Of State Aviation Officials
- National Business Aviation Association
- National Farmers Union
- Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
Alliance Non-Aviation Members

- **Chambers of Commerce**
  - Greater Pensacola Chamber (FL)
  - Elko Chamber of Commerce (NV)
  - Milford Chamber of Commerce (DE)
  - Huron Chamber of Commerce (SD)
  - Bartlesville Chamber of Commerce (OK)
  - Louisa Chamber of Commerce (VA)
  - Tyler Chamber of Commerce (TX)
  - Greenville Chamber of Commerce (SC)
  - Heart of Wisconsin Chamber of Commerce (WI)
  - Newport Chamber of Commerce (RI)
  - Greater Pensacola Chamber (FL)
  - Carson Valley Chamber of Commerce (NV)
  - Chickasha Economic Development (OK)

- **Local Elected Officials**
  - Albert Tom: Arizona State Representative, 2nd District
  - Kraig Paulsen: Speaker of the Iowa House of Representatives, 67th District
  - Mayor Barbara Tolbert: Arlington, WA
  - Mayor Allen Joines: Winston-Salem, NC
  - Mayor Elaine Allison: Moraine, OH
  - Mayor Roy Buol: Dubuque, IA
  - County Judge Harold Gleinser: Scurry County, TX
  - Mayor Nickolis Helmer: Prospect Heights, IL
  - Betsy Johnson – Oregon State Senator, 16th District
  - Mayor Tammi Fisher: Kalispell, MT
  - Mayor Glen Haines: Faith, SD
  - Mayor Nancy Adams: Pequot Lakes, MN
  - Bob Krist – Nebraska State Senator, 10th District
Non Aviation Members

- Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council
- American Corn Growers Association
- United States Cattleman’s Association
- National Association of Farmer Elected Committees
- Intertribal Agriculture Council
- League of Rural Voters
- Agricultural Retailers Association
- Small Business Majority
- America’s Blood Centers
- National Farmers Union
- Navajo Nation
- Alaska Municipal League
Alliance Economic Impact Survey

Economic Impact of General Aviation

- Economic Impact Survey Launched in September 2009
- Include Economic Impact Data for All 50 States
- For 35 States, the Survey Includes Zip Code and Congressional District Data
- New Features
  - Inclusion of Public–Use Heliports
  - Links to State Studies

http://www.aviationacrossamerica.com/economic-impact/
Proclamations in All 50 States

Denotes states in which the Governors have passed a proclamation recognizing the value of aviation.
Local Proclamations

Total Proclamations: 180

- Shreveport, LA
- Fargo, ND
- Charlotte, NC
- Buffalo, NY
- Los Angeles County, CA
- Midland, TX
- Medford, OR
- Boca Raton, FL
- Pottstown, PA
- Tuscaloosa, AL
- Gary, IN
- Arlington, WA
- Annapolis, MD
- Huntington, WV
- Boise, ID
- Madison, WI
- Columbia, SC
- Aurora, CO
- Anchorage, AK
- Hawaii County, HI
- Concord, NH
WHEREAS, General aviation in America supports more than 1.2 million jobs, many of them in small and medium-sized businesses, and generates $150 billion in economic activity; and

WHEREAS, Many of the 5,200 general aviation airports in the United States are located at the center of clusters of the small and medium-sized businesses and communities that are driving the nation's economic recovery; and

WHEREAS, Private aircraft that help these businesses create and maintain jobs have been mistakenly characterized as "toys for the rich," rather than as vital tools that allow business to operate and thrive; and

WHEREAS, General aviation aircraft are used around the clock by law enforcement officers, medical professionals, disaster relief personnel, and others to reach people in need; and

WHEREAS, General aviation aircraft are also used by researchers to gather data and map terrain in efforts to help governments, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations improve and protect the quality of life; and

WHEREAS, America's agriculture industry uses general aviation in its efforts to feed and clothe a hungry world; and

WHEREAS, The nation's public utilities use general aviation to install and maintain infrastructure vital to keeping the nation functioning; and

WHEREAS, Insufficient funding of Federal Aviation Administration operations and airport and airspace infrastructure imposes challenges on the ability of general aviation operators to operate effectively; and

WHEREAS, Airports and the aviation industry play a critical role in the lives of our citizens as well as in the economic prosperity of the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, The Empire State is home to over 400 commercial, public, and private airports and heliports, ranging from small rural facilities to New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport which is one of the busiest airports in the world; and

WHEREAS, The New York State Department of Transportation has demonstrated that the State's aviation industry contributes a significant amount of economic benefit to the State over $55 billion in annual economic activity; employs more than 394,500 state residents; and generates $18 billion in payroll and $4.5 billion in state and local tax revenue annually; and

WHEREAS, This contribution by the aviation sector to the State's economic well-being is fueled by a vibrant and supportive aviation community consisting of airports, general aviation, commercial aviation, cargo transport, manufacturing partners, hospitality businesses, vendors and contractors, engineers and consultants, pilots, mechanics, educational institutions, and other aviation organizations; and

WHEREAS, Business aviation is a critical tool for companies in New York to improve efficiency, save money and open up opportunities in rural areas not served by commercial aviation thus bringing new business, investment and jobs to all areas of the State; and

WHEREAS, Many communities in New York depend heavily on their commercial service and general aviation airports for the continued flow of commerce, tourists and visitors to our State and are responsible for over 40 million enplanements per year; and

WHEREAS, Celebrations of aviation will take place during the month of May, including the annual Bethpage Federal Credit Union Air Show at Jones Beach State Park, hosted by the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation (May 23-24) with this year's lineup to include the US Air Force Thunderbirds and the US Army Golden Knight; and the Rochester International Air Show showcasing the US Navy Blue Angels; now, therefore, be it

REMEMBERED, That this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations to memorialize Governor Andrew M. Cuomo to proclaim May 2015 as Aviation Appreciation Month in the State of New York; and be it further

REMEMBERED, That a copy of this Resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, Governor of the State of New York.
**Alliance Press Coverage**

- **Business Forum: General aviation gives businesses an edge**
  
  By Tom Wallace  
  February 3, 2015

  In today’s competitive marketplace, general aviation provides companies with a significant advantage. As the owner of six Johnstone Supply locations across Pennsylvania and Maryland, I have seen firsthand how a plane can assist in a company’s day-to-day operations.

  It allows my staff and me to reach our branches quickly. We can use the airplane to transport our employees, customers, products, and also have multiple meetings in different locations in one day.

  Johnstone Supply is a wholesale distributor in the HVAC industry, encompassing heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration products. Professionals in the industry operate on tight schedules, whether they are making a repair or working on a new installation, and the plane allows us to reach our clients on short notice.

  The airplane is a difference maker in business; it not only maximizes time, it sets us apart from the competition.

  In addition to the benefits of general aviation for businesses, helicopters and other general aviation aircraft are essential for the transport of medical supplies and emergency personnel. Medevac operations and disaster relief services depend heavily on general aviation to help save lives. Law enforcement and port security authorities use general aviation to keep us safe.

  And general aviation and its pilots are active in the charitable community.

  Unfortunately, in spite of all these benefits, many still don’t understand how important a resource these aircraft are to communities across the U.S.

  For example, the president’s budget proposal from earlier this year included a $100-per-flight tax that would have a significant negative impact on general aviation and the many people who use and depend on it every day. And, because of the manner in which the fee was proposed, a very strong case could be made that it would affect safety.

  Fortunately, many of our local elected officials realize the immense value of general aviation.

  Tom Wallace, of Allentown, Pa., is the owner of six Johnstone Supply branches in Pennsylvania and Maryland and a member of the Alliance for Aviation Across America.
Mayors’ Letter to FAA Administrator Michael Huerta

May 1, 2013

The Honorable Michael Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta,

We are writing to express our deep concern about the FAA’s current plans to close air traffic control towers at our community airports in order to comply with “sequestration,” or mandatory budget cuts to agencies. The closing of these towers will have a significant impact on our economy and local communities.

First and foremost, the closure of these towers will negatively impact jobs and the economy within our communities. Our airports and the aircraft and businesses that rely upon them are a major economic driver, attracting businesses and generating millions in economic activity annually. Many of our locally based businesses use these airports to base their own aircraft and as a means to access new markets, deliver goods and serve customers. At a time when we as a nation should be focused on creating and supporting jobs, these closures will only serve to hamper business growth, while also potentially leaving even more hundreds upon thousands of workers unemployed.

Not only that, shutting down these towers would have a devastating impact on our communities, as these airports and the aircraft that use them serve as a critical lifeline for our communities for everything from fire-fighting, law enforcement, medical care, disaster relief, aerial surveying and crop protection, and flight training, among many others. Whether it’s transporting patients from rural areas to medical centers to receive treatments, reuniting veterans with their families, transporting organs or blood to communities in need, or supporting our nation’s agricultural industry and food supply, airports connect our communities in almost every way imaginable.

Aviation and our local airports are a critical economic lifeline for these communities, and we simply cannot afford this type of devastating blow at a time when our communities are already struggling to recover. We ask you to reconsider this decision in light of these concerns, and look forward to working with you on this and other matters related to our communities.

Sincerely,

Mayor Mike Rawlings - Dallas, TX
Mayor Kevin Johnson - Sacramento, CA
Mayor Jonathan Rothschild - Tucson, AZ
Mayor Mick Cornett - Oklahoma City, OK
Mayor Donnalee Loeser - Nashua, NH
Mayor Allen Jones - Winston Salem, NC
Mayor Michael Gillette - Lynchburg, VA
Op-Ed’s

Wyoming Tribune Eagle

Aviation is incredibly important to us all
September 30, 2014
By Doug Schmitz

I am a surgeon in rural Wyoming who uses his aircraft to extend general surgery specialty care, EMS medical direction and trauma consultative services throughout Wyoming and Montana. This is especially important to those in underserved rural and frontier areas, allowing for improved access to medical care that would not be available without the use of an aircraft.

Aviation has played a critical role in my practice and continues to be an essential tool for providing health care to rural and frontier populations.

The truth is, across our country air transportation is a key part of medical care access and delivery. Each year, about one in every thousand people in the U.S. needs air medical services.

In the past few decades, more advanced specialized medical facilities and trauma centers have located in large urban centers. As a result, aircraft are more important than ever to ensure people in rural areas have access to life-saving treatments. Also, law enforcement, firefighters, search-and-rescue, disaster relief workers and countless non-profits use general aviation to serve the greater good.

And small-business owners and farmers rely on general aviation to increase efficiency in their day-to-day lives.

Despite its benefits, most people don’t understand the importance of this form of transportation. For example, the president has included a $100 per flight user fee tax in his budget. While it may make for good talking points on K Street, the truth is that these types of policies would impact small businesses and farms the most because they have the least ability to absorb more taxes.

Fortunately, our leaders seem to understand the importance of general aviation. Gov. Matt Mead has proclaimed June as “General Aviation Appreciation Month.”

In addition, U.S. Rep. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., is a member of the General Aviation Caucus, which works to educate members of Congress about the importance of general aviation.

This is a great step in the right direction. Hopefully we can all educate other leaders around the country about the significance of this form of transportation to Wyoming and nationwide.

Doug Schmitz is a general and trauma surgeon in Wyoming and a member of the Alliance for Aviation Across America.
"SLC Mayor Announces Aviation Appreciation Month"
FOX 13 (Salt Lake City, UT)
March 15, 2015
How Can We Work Together?

- Become a member of the Alliance
- Help us to organize a meeting with stakeholders in your community
- Help us to pass a proclamation or resolution in your community
- Ask your Member of Congress to join the GA Caucus