



## NATIONAL CONFERENCE *of* STATE LEGISLATURES

*The Forum for America's Ideas*

April 27, 2015

**Debbie Smith**  
*Senate Assistant Minority Leader  
Nevada  
President, NCSL*

**Margaret 'Peggy' Piety**  
*Senior Staff Attorney  
Legislative Services Agency  
Indiana  
Staff Chair, NCSL*

**William T. Pound**  
*Executive Director*

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety,  
and Security  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
144 Russell Senate Office  
Washington D.C., 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety,  
and Security  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington D.C., 20510

Re: Airport Infrastructure Funding and Financing

Dear Chairman Ayotte and Senator Cantwell,

On behalf of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), the bipartisan organization that serves all legislators and legislative staff of the nation's 50 states, its commonwealths and territories, we applaud the Senate Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, for holding a hearing on the issue of airport infrastructure funding within the reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We support expeditious action on this reauthorization to ensure that the negative effects caused by a short-term extension of critical programs are minimized. Aviation is a key component of a balanced transportation system and is vitally linked to regional growth and economic development efforts.

Within such important legislation, NCSL would urge the committee to ensure that airports have sufficient funding and financing options to meet their infrastructure needs. Commercial airports support more than 9.5 million jobs across all states and are essential in keeping our country globally viable in moving passengers and cargo, as well as stimulating economic development and tourism.

To achieve this goal, NCSL believes Congress should raise the federal cap on the individual Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) user fee to restore its purchasing power and keep pace with inflation. Such a change would help ensure that airport operators have sufficient funding to be

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competitive in a changing marketplace and implement needed safety, security, capacity and noise abatement projects at their airports.

Additionally, NCSL is a strong proponent of the Airport Improvement Program (AIP), and would urge Congress to ensure that states can use these funds for increased security measures required by federal law at a 100-percent federal share.

We would welcome the opportunity to further discuss our position on airport infrastructure funding and financing and hope the committee will take our attached policies into consideration as it works to reauthorize the FAA. Please contact Ben Husch ([ben.husch@ncsl.org](mailto:ben.husch@ncsl.org)) or Melanie Condon ([melanie.condon@ncsl.org](mailto:melanie.condon@ncsl.org)) for any additional information.

Sincerely,



Senator Deb Peters  
South Dakota Senate  
Co-Chair, NCSL's Standing Committees



Representative Mary Jane Wallner  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
Co-Chair, NCSL's Standing Committees

Attached:

[NCSL's Airport Infrastructure Funding Policy Resolution](#)  
[NCSL's Aviation Policy Directive](#)