

September 21, 2007

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Chairman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Costello  
Chairman  
House Transportation & Infrastructure  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Chairman Costello:

The National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) applauds your efforts in putting more funding into the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization, particularly the Air Improvement Program (AIP) and Essential Air Service program (EAS), thereby improving aviation safety and capacity. With air traffic congestion defying boundaries and crippling infrastructure, a comprehensive, multi-jurisdictional program with increased funding will bring together and greatly assist policymakers and transportation practitioners and users in combating the challenges this problem poses to our air transportation system. Your willingness to find real solutions to these air system problems is a necessary step in defining a commitment to improving our transportation system.

NARC, representing Councils of Government (COGs), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) and Rural Planning Organizations (RPOs), serves as the national voice for regionalism – advocating regional cooperation as the most effective way to address a variety community planning, development and infrastructure issues. COGs and MPOs are responsible for billions of dollars in transportation planning and programming each year, coordinating the overall planning and programming for projects and operations regionally throughout the country. These regional agencies are knowledgeable about the transportation issues that cut across city, county and, often times, state boundaries. Their expertise in regional transportation financing, planning and development, and new, emerging technologies will be an asset in the fight to combat congestion and improve our infrastructure.

NARC and its members appreciate the increased funding for programs like AIP, which is a significant provider to regional planning organizations for grant funding to plan and develop public-use airports. NARC also applauds the increased funding for the EAS program and the extension of the Small Community Air Service Development program, which are both critical to the growth and sustainability of rural regions and communities.

In addition to our support, NARC offers its assistance for this and all other transportation issues. Please do not hesitate to contact me. I can be reached at 202.986.1032 x 213 or [cmoore@narc.org](mailto:cmoore@narc.org). Thank you.

Sincerely,



Cameron Moore  
Executive Director