

Statement for the Record from

Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Experimental Aircraft Association

Helicopter Association International

National Association of State Aviation Officials

National Air Transportation Association

National Business Aviation Association

U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,

Subcommittee on Aviation

“Turbulence Ahead: Consequences of Delaying a Long-term FAA Bill”

November 30, 2023

Chair Graves and Ranking Member Cohen,

Our organizations collectively represent the broad spectrum of the general aviation industry including business and personal transportation, pilots and aircraft owners, aviation businesses, and state aviation officials. Our community fully supports the completion of a long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as it is important to safeguarding the operations of the National Airspace System (NAS). As we have seen in the past, short-term extensions challenge the certainty that industry and the FAA depend on to enable long-term planning and investment in many critical areas required to ensure the safety of the NAS and America’s global leadership in aviation.

The general aviation industry contributes an estimated \$247 billion in economic output and supports 1.2 million jobs in the United States while supporting critical services and providing an essential lifeline to thousands of communities nationwide. Operating at our nation’s network of more than 5,000 public-use airports, 13,000 private airports and airstrips, and 5,500 heliports, general aviation is an integral part of the national transportation system that connects rural areas with air travel options and forges links between businesses, their suppliers, and their customers. General aviation operations include emergency medical personnel and supplies delivery, disaster relief and recovery, search and rescue, agricultural aviation activities, recreational pursuits, personal transportation, and more. In addition, the industry supports commercial aviation by training a significantly large percentage of airline pilots.

We commend the House of Representatives and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and its leadership on the passage of the Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act, H.R. 3935. This bipartisan legislation reauthorizes the FAA's aviation safety and infrastructure programs for five years and provides the multi-year structure, resources, and direction the FAA needs.

Additionally, H.R. 3935 recognizes the vital national role of our industry by including the first-ever general aviation title, which makes critical reforms to FAA services of specific interest to our industry segment. This bill enables the FAA to move forward on areas of significant importance to general aviation including workforce development, regulatory process improvement, airspace modernization, and the development and enabling of new technologies.

On behalf of the general aviation industry, we thank Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Cohen, and the subcommittee for holding this hearing and highlighting the importance and urgency of completing long-term FAA Reauthorization.