

October 28, 2013

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
House Appropriations Committee
2406 RHOB
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**Same letter sent to Representatives Latham,
Lowey and Pastor, and Senators Mikulski, Murray,
Shelby and Collins**

Dear Chairman Rogers:

As you continue negotiations on the fiscal year 2014 Transportation, HUD, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill, the organizations listed below urge your support for inclusion of the following language from the House bill (H.R. 2610) that dedicates funding for the Contract Tower Program:

Provided further, That of the funds appropriated under this heading, not less than \$140,000,000 shall be for the contract tower program, of which \$10,350,000 is for the contract tower cost share program:

The inclusion of this important language as part of final legislation funding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) for FY 2014, in whatever form that may be, is absolutely critical to ensuring that operations continue throughout the fiscal year at the 251 FAA contract towers across the country.

As you will recall, FAA earlier this year in the face of sequestration proposed to eliminate funding for 149 towers in the program, a disproportional cut that went far beyond the reductions of most areas in the agency's budget. While Congress ultimately developed a plan for averting those cuts, it is clear that the program is once again on the FAA's target list for FY 2014 as sequestration looms in the background.

The House bill language cited above will ensure that the Contract Tower Program is treated equitably and fairly as FAA manages the budgetary constraints of sequestration. It will provide certainty to local communities and protect this important and long-standing aviation safety program from being targeted for disproportionate cuts or elimination of service at certain airports.

Until Congress has enacted fiscal year 2014 funding legislation, we urge you to convey to the FAA Administrator that the agency should not take any actions that phase out funding for contract towers or reduce service at airports participating in the program. The Contract Tower Program enjoys widespread bipartisan support in both the House and Senate, and contract towers have played an integral role for the past 30 years in the FAA's efforts to manage the safety and efficiency of our nation's complex airspace.

Thank you for your support for this cost-effective and essential safety program. We look forward to working with you to ensure its future success.

Sincerely,



J. Spencer Dickerson
Executive Director, U.S. Contract Tower Association
An affiliate organization of the American Association
of Airport Executives



Scott Smith
Mayor of Mesa, Arizona
President of The U.S. Conference of Mayors

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Letter to Chairman Rogers

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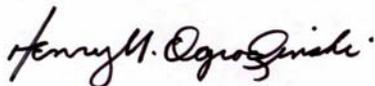
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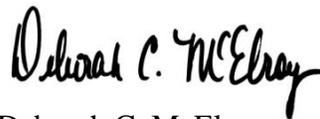
Thomas L. Hendricks
CEO and President
National Air Transportation Association



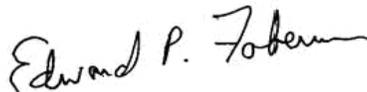
Ed Bolen
President & CEO
National Business Aviation Association



Henry M. Ogrodzinski
President
National Association of State Aviation Officials



Deborah C. McElroy
Interim President
Airports Council International - NA



Edward P. Faberman
Executive Director
Air Carrier Association of America



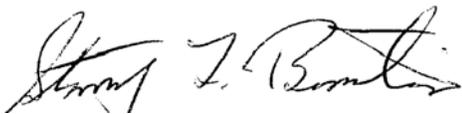
Pete Dumont
President
Air Traffic Control Association



Roger Cohen
President
Regional Airline Association



Stephen A. Alterman
President
Cargo Airline Association



Stanley Bernstein
President
Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association



Jennifer Imo
Executive Director
General Aviation Airport Coalition