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December 1, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
House Democratic Leader
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
Washington, DC 20510

THE AVIATION MAINTENANCE INDUSTRY URGES CONGRESS TO COMPLETE WORK ON FAA REAUTHORIZATION

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leaders Reid, Pelosi, and McConnell:

On behalf of the Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA), I am writing to urge Congress to both expeditiously finalize Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization legislation to restore predictability to U.S. aviation policy and to ensure the final bill does not undermine the competitiveness of the U.S. aviation maintenance industry.

Congress must put partisan differences aside and enact a new FAA authorization law. VISION-100, the current statute granting the FAA operating and funding authority, expired in 2007 and has been extended 22 times. The uncertainty created by Congress' failure to pass a new, multiyear reauthorization bill is wreaking havoc on the aviation industry.

While the country desperately needs the predictability of a new FAA law, Congress must also ensure that the final legislation does not detrimentally impact the thousands of facilities in communities throughout the country that provide aviation maintenance services. Specifically, the non-certificated maintenance and repair station provisions must guarantee effective government oversight without unnecessarily increasing compliance costs for industry.

In sum, Congress must allow repair stations to build on their exemplary safety record and continue to contribute to America's economic recovery. At risk is the vitality of an industry that helps air carriers be more reliable, efficient, and safe; has a \$2.4 billion positive balance of trade; employs 274,000 American workers; and contributes \$39 billion annually to the U.S. economy.

ARSA looks forward to working with you in a bipartisan manner to quickly enact FAA reauthorization legislation in the near future and restore predictability to U.S. aviation policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Klein", written in a cursive style.

Christian A. Klein
Executive Vice President

cc: U.S. House of Representatives
U.S. Senate