

October 1, 2009

President Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

As you prepare your budget request for Fiscal Year 2011, we urge you not to propose a user fee as a means of funding the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in your proposal.

User fees are not needed to raise revenue for the Trust Fund. The current system of aviation excise taxes has proven to be a stable and efficient source of funding for our aviation system. Furthermore, we believe that user fees will place an undue administrative burden, and associated costs, on system users – particularly small businesses and general aviation users. In addition, we are concerned that allowing the FAA to independently raise revenue through a fee will result in inadequate incentives for the FAA to control its costs.

Aviation user fees have been proposed several times by past Administrations, and the House has opposed this approach in legislation to reauthorize the FAA in both the 110th and 111th Congresses. Therefore, proposing user fees to finance the FAA would be a non-starter in the House and a major distraction from the number one priority, the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), to ensure our nation's air traffic control infrastructure is robust for the future. A consensus was reached on financing issues last year and we need to move forward quickly to pass an FAA reauthorization bill.

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to an open dialogue with you and your Administration on the best way to finance the modernization of our air traffic control system and the FAA's continued operations.

Sincerely,