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July 18, 2023

The Honorable Sam Graves
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Garrett Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steve Cohen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Graves, and Ranking Member Cohen:

The Airport Consultants Council (ACC) writes to you today to voice our support for H.R. 3935, the *Securing Growth and Robust Leadership in American Aviation Act (SGRLAA)*. ACC is a global trade association and the voice for over 230 member companies that support the development and operation of airports and their related facilities.

Our member companies and the aviation industry in general depend on a strong, multi-year FAA Authorization. We commend your commitment to this bipartisan legislation and appreciate the opportunity to share our opinion with you as industry subject matter experts.

ACC supports SGRLAA due to the inclusion of several of our priorities, including increases in authorized funding for the aviation system. The future of airport infrastructure depends on an investment commensurate with the demands of our aging facilities. Let us be clear: infrastructure deficiencies at our nation's airports are great and far exceed the funds that are available. ACC is pleased by the inclusion of an increase in Airport Improvement Program (AIP) authorization to \$4 billion, the first increase in over a decade and a step in the right direction. ACC also supports the committee's decision to allow for an expansion of AIP eligibility to allow airports the ability to address their unique safety and capacity needs.

ACC recognizes the inclusion of Section 408 and welcomes the addition of more airports into the FAA Letter of Intent program. Long-term planning helps airports of all sizes complete capital improvement projects in a timely and cost-efficient manner. Steady and predictable funding sources will allow airports the certainty to initiate long term and community changing programs that can address safety and capacity needs.

Finally, we commend the committee's recognition of the need to diversify the aviation industry workforce. The aviation development industry mirror those needs and appreciates the inclusion in the bill to establish the National Center for the Advancement of Aerospace (NCAA), the Cooperative Aviation Recruitment, Enrichment, and Employment Readiness (CAREER) Program and the Bessie Coleman Women in Aviation Advisory committee.

ACC has identified some areas that could be improved. We support clearer language to reform Section 163 to ensure that the FAA follows the intent of Congress. Airports also continue to need guidance, financial support, and liability protection with regards to Perfluoroalkyl and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). ACC continues to look to Congress to ensure that Buy America requirements are more consistent, efficient, and practical. We also request the House of Representatives to consider raising the \$25 million threshold for terminal building projects that could be eligible for streamlined application processes.

While ACC supports the expansion of the Letter of Intent program, we recognize this program does not comprehensively address the need for stricter requirements for timeliness of grants. This is particularly important for those airports in inclement climates and with short construction seasons.

ACC and our member companies thank you for your thoughtful leadership on *SGRLAA*. We look forward to working with you in the coming months to pass a full and robust reauthorization before the end of the fiscal year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T.J. Schulz', written in a cursive style.

T.J. Schulz, President
Airport Consultants Council