



May 13, 2019

Mr. D. Kirk Shaffer, ARP-1
Office of the Associate Administrator for Airports (ARP)
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Associate Administrator Shaffer,

The National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO) wishes you many congratulations on your appointment as Associate Administrator for Airports. We value our continued partnership with the FAA to represent the interests of the states, and to promote implementations in policy that benefit state and local aviation.

NASAO and the New England states write to you today with regard to the NE Region Airports Division. After a long series of acting administrators, we welcome the advertisement for a permanent Regional Administrator. We also support appointing a permanent Director to the NE Region Airports Division.

There is concern, however, that the FAA might be considering downgrading the office to a District Office. The New England Airports Division funds over \$350 million in annual infrastructure investments (AIP entitlement and discretionary, and PFC) in New England. If the Region's Airports Division is downgraded to a District Office, critical priorities related to New England airports may be lost in the broader needs and priorities of neighboring regions. The NE Region's past success in planning and prioritizing federal investment dollars include several permitting projects, construction of a new Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Building (ARFF), and construction of new runways and safety areas at regional and municipal airports.

We encourage you to maintain the classification of the NE Region Airports Division and not downgrade it to a district office. NASAO and NE representatives would welcome having further discussions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shelly S", is positioned above the typed name.

Shelly Simi
NASAO President & CEO