



July 22, 2019

The Honorable James M. Inhofe
United States Senate
205 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Inhofe and Senator King:

As representatives of tens of thousands of individuals and companies from all segments of the aviation community, including pilots, aircraft owners, operators, businesses that utilize aircraft, and mechanics, we are writing to express our strong support for S. 2198, the Promoting the Launch of Aviation's Next Era (PLANE) Act of 2019.

The bipartisan PLANE Act sets the stage for the future of general aviation by empowering the voices of pilots, investing in airport infrastructure, and ensuring more opportunities for a trained aviation workforce. General aviation is an important American industry that generates \$219 billion in total economic output in the United States and creates 1.1 million jobs and the network of some 2,950 non-primary airports are economic engines that provide vital access to many communities and help support local economies.

While almost 50,000 more pilots have joined the aviation community since 2016, pilots continue to face challenges and barriers to flying. This legislation keeps individual pilots in the left seat by empowering their engagement with the Federal Aviation Administration regarding their airman certificate, medical certification, or when the aviation community is subject to FAA rulemaking.

Maintaining and upgrading airport infrastructure allows airports and the communities to remain vibrant and competitive. The PLANE Act would encourage public-private partnerships to attract private sector investment at general aviation airports. Moreover, this legislation recognizes the important role airports play in aiding disaster response efforts by providing access to funding for emergency planning activities and equipment, or facilities.

The PLANE Act would address the unfair diversion of aviation federal fuel tax receipts from the Highway Trust Fund to the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. Aviation user fees should go to support the aviation community, and this bill would correct this unfair situation.

We believe this legislation should be enacted to promote the launch of aviation's next era for the benefit of the entire aviation community.

Sincerely,

Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Allied Pilots Association
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
Experimental Aircraft Association
Helicopter Association International
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Association of State Aviation Officials
National Business Aviation Association
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association
U.S. Contract Tower Association