



Charles D. Baker, Governor
Karyn E. Polito, Lieutenant Governor
Stephanie Pollack, Secretary & CEO
Jeffrey DeCarlo, Administrator



May 1, 2019

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

Dear Associate Administrator Shaffer:

Congratulations on your appointment as Associate Administrator for Airports. The FAA Airports organization is critical to airport safety, planning, funding, and policy development. As administrator of an organization that oversees 35 public use airports in Massachusetts, we have successfully implemented a wide range of safety, research, and infrastructure projects. Our statewide airport system performs as a well-coordinated system that serves every geographic region and market of the Commonwealth. A recently completed Statewide Airport Economic Impact Study (Jan 2019) confirmed that the total economic output of Massachusetts 39 public use airports (including Massport) support approximately 5,200 jobs and over \$24.7 billion in economic output. These numbers have grown by 23 percent and 49 percent, respectively, since the completion of the 2014 study.

The FAA's recent advertisement for a permanent Regional Administrator for New England after a long series of acting administrators is welcomed; however, we have strong concerns related to a permanent appointment to the Director of the NE Region Airports Division. It is also our understanding that the FAA may be considering downgrading the office to a District Office.

The NE Region 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 and Massachusetts airports may be lost in the broader needs and priorities of, for example, the Eastern Region. Past successes in planning and prioritizing federal investment dollars include several permitting projects, construction of new runways and safety areas, and the construction of a new Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting Building (ARFF) at our regional and municipal airports across the Commonwealth.

I urge you to appoint a permanent Director to the NE Region Airports Division and to not downgrade the office to a District Office, if that is being considered. I invite you to visit Boston to discuss ongoing plans for our statewide airport system and to better understand our perspective on this important issue. In the meantime, if you have any questions please call me at 617-412-3686.

Sincerely,



Jeffrey DeCarlo
Administrator

cc: Senator Ed Markey, Senator Elizabeth Warren, Congresswoman Katherine Clark, Congressman Stephen Lynch, Congressman Jim McGovern, Congressman Seth Moulton, Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley, Congresswoman Lori Trahan, Secretary Stephanie Pollack, MassDOT

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