



January 25, 2021

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), we write in support of the nomination of Pete Buttigieg as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT).

NASAO is the nationally recognized voice for the public interest in aviation on behalf of the states and territories. We represent state aviation agencies in all 50 states, Guam, and Puerto Rico. Our mission is to encourage and foster cooperation throughout the public sector in the development and promotion of a national aviation system that safely and effectively serves the needs of citizens, commerce, and communities throughout the United States.

Mayor Buttigieg will bring the vision and leadership to the role of Secretary that the Department of Transportation needs. During his tenure in local government, Mayor Buttigieg demonstrated his ability to build effective working partnerships across organizational boundaries to lead, drive and implement key strategic initiatives. As his national stature has grown, he has demonstrated his ability to share his vision and inspire others. We believe these attributes will serve him well in leading the Department of Transportation during such a critical time for our nation's airports, airlines, and aviation-related businesses.

Most importantly, he brings a practical understanding of the need for a close working relationship between federal, state, and local partners. State aviation agencies maintain close working relationships with the Federal Aviation Administration and USDOT to deliver solutions for the national aviation system, and we look forward to a continuing this strong partnership under Secretary-Designate Buttigieg's leadership.

We urge the Committee to quickly confirm Pete Buttigieg as Secretary of Transportation, and we stand ready to work with you and him on critical issues facing our nation's aviation system.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bobby L. Walston".

Bobby L. Walston, PE  
Chair, NASAO Board of Directors  
and Director, Aviation Division  
North Carolina Department of Transportation

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gregory Pecoraro".

Gregory Pecoraro  
NASAO President and CEO