



August 18, 2011

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Office of The Speaker
United States House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner:

We write to strongly condemn the inclusion of any new aviation industry taxes as part of any deficit reduction measure currently being considered by Congress. It has been rumored that Members of both the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate are contemplating a new flat "user fee" (tax) on all take-offs and landings of general aviation aircraft, and increases in commercial airline ticket taxes – a move which would impose an unfair and destructive tax burden on an important sector of the U.S. economy. It defies reason for Congress to place additional taxes on the general and commercial aviation industry at this particularly vulnerable time.

This new tax would not only hurt general aviation manufacturing, it would also unfairly target small to mid-sized businesses across the country in particular. The ripple effect would wash over numerous communities throughout our nation who rely on this important form of transportation for commerce, goods, medical care, and a host of resources. In fact, 85 percent of all businesses that depend on general aviation are small to mid-sized businesses.

Furthermore, the new takeoff and landing levy would result in an undue administrative burden on small businesses, which would be forced to contend with a pile of new recordkeeping. It would likewise require the creation of a huge new bureaucracy within the federal government to administer these fees, entailing a new team of billing agents, auditors and collection officials. Businesses are struggling enough in this economy; the federal government should not make matters worse.

New taxes on commercial aviation are equally unacceptable. Commercial airline tickets are already taxed at a high level, and increasing those taxes will further discourage consumers from purchasing them at a critical time for the industry, which is facing high fuel taxes and a weak economy. Proposals that attempt to hide tax increases by labeling them as "security fees," "landing fees," or any new so-called "user fee" will simply be passed on to all passengers, and should be opposed outright.

The current tax and fee structure of the general and commercial aviation industry should be addressed holistically, as part of a systemic reform effort. It should not serve as a politically expedient "revenue-raiser." As



you work to find a solution to our nation's deficit challenges, we strongly urge you to reject any new aviation taxes which would deal a significant blow to an important sector of our economy and unnecessarily increase government bureaucracy.

Sincerely,

American Civil Rights Union, Susan A. Carleson, Chairman and CEO
American Conservative Union, Larry Hart, Director of Government Relations

American Family Business Institute, Dick Patten, President
Americans for Prosperity, Phil Kerpen, Vice President of Policy
Americans for Tax Reform, Grover Norquist, President

Carleson Center for Public Policy, Susan Carleson, Chairman and CEO
Center for Fiscal Accountability, Mattie Duppler Corrao, Executive Director

Center-Right Coalition of Florida, Rick Watson, Chairman
Citizen Outreach, Chuck Muth, President

Competitive Enterprise Institute, Iain Murray, Vice President and Director, Center for Economic Freedom

Freedom Action, Myron Ebell, Director

Independent Women's Voice, Nicole Neily, Executive Director

Institute for Policy Innovation, Tom Giovanetti, President

Less Government, Seton Motley, President

Management Association for Private Photogrammetric Surveyors, John Palatiello, Executive Director

National Taxpayers Union, Duane Parde, President

Small Business & Entrepreneurship Council, Karen Kerrigan, President and CEO

Taxpayer Protection Alliance, David Williams, President