



David McCall
International President

May 7, 2024

Via Email

U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: United Steelworkers urges passage of the bicameral, bipartisan Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2024.

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the United Steelworkers (USW), the largest industrial union in North America, I write urging swift passage of the bicameral, bipartisan Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024. It is imperative that Congress fully reauthorize the FAA's authority before it lapses at the end of this week.

While air travel remains the safest mode of transportation in the world, we must prioritize the well-being of those who build, operate, and maintain our aviation system. The FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 enhances existing safety standards, ensures sustainable growth of the aviation workforce, and facilitates improvements to infrastructure and service. For example, the agreement increases air traffic controller trainee hiring for the next five years, directs the FAA to develop a standardized reporting system to improve cabin air quality, expands unruly passenger assault protections to airline employees who perform functions outside of the aircraft, and rejects any policy changes to raise the pilot retirement age.

Additionally, this measure includes Section 768, which would prohibit FAA federal assistance funds from being used to purchase rail cars, monorails, buses, and other forms of rolling stock from China's state-owned and -supported companies. This important provision closes a loophole from the 2019 Transportation Infrastructure Vehicle Security Act, which applies to federally assisted transit purchases. Covered companies have been securing lucrative, taxpayer-backed contracts at major U.S. airports, prompting the need for the FAA bill to address this ongoing economic and national security issue. USW applauds the inclusion of this provision, and urges caution with use of the added waiver provision.

The safety and efficiency of our aviation system, as well as the livelihoods of countless workers across the industry and in upstream supply chains, are contingent on Congressional action. USW strongly urges the swift passage of the bicameral, bipartisan FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 without further delay. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David McCall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'D' and 'M'.

David McCall
International President