

LETTER TO SENATOR JOHN THUNE FROM
SOUTH DAKOTA AVIATION BUSINESSES

September 8, 2015

The Honorable John Thune
511 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

As members of the South Dakota general aviation business community, we are strongly opposed to using the upcoming FAA reauthorization legislation to create a user-fee funded air traffic control corporation. Such a corporation, controlled by a board of industry insiders, will place our businesses and our employees in constant peril from efforts by major users of the ATC system to cost shift and deny general aviation access to airspace and critical airport development funds. It will undermine the national air transportation system by denying rural America access to cutting-edge technology and hinder South Dakota's economic development.

While we strongly agree with you that maintaining the status quo risks our nation's supremacy in aviation, we believe that radical changes to the FAA's management structure and funding poses equal risks – to the safe and stable nature of the world's best air traffic control system and America's vibrant general aviation community.

The upcoming FAA reauthorization presents many opportunities to improve operations at the FAA and make it easier for aviation businesses to interact with the agency. However, separating air traffic control from the agency's regulatory functions risks undermining aviation safety, jobs, and investment for all South Dakotans.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mark Caven
Aberdeen Flying Service
Aberdeen Regional Airport

Darryl Shook
Hangar 9, Inc.
Aberdeen Regional Airport

Kevin Braun
Quest Aviation
Aberdeen Regional Airport

Jim Anderson
Belle Fourche Aero
Belle Fourche Municipal Airport

Danny Hofer
Skyways Ltd.
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Jordan Hall
Legacy Aviation LLC
Marv-Skie Lincoln Airport

Todd Shannon
Wright Brothers Aviation
Mitchell Municipal Airport

Tyler Hearnen
Ohae Air
Mobridge Municipal Airport

Pete Girtz
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