



The Honorable Ted Cruz, 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

January 13, 2025

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of the National Air Transportation Association's (NATA) more than 3700 member companies, I write today in support of the confirmation of the Honorable Sean Duffy as U.S. Secretary of Transportation. During this pivotal time for the American aviation industry, NATA appreciates your commitment to thoroughly vetting and filling leadership positions within the Department of Transportation (DOT) and Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in a timely manner. Therefore, we urge the Senate Commerce Committee to swiftly approve Mr. Duffy's nomination and maintain seamless leadership over the U.S. National Airspace System (NAS).

Despite recent stressors, the NAS remains the global gold standard for aviation safety and innovation; however, the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress recognized the need for meaningful system reform to safeguard U.S. aviation leadership when it crafted and passed transformational FAA Reauthorization legislation. The coming months will be critical to Agency implementation of many Congressionally mandated reforms that will improve FAA efficiency and modernize regulatory oversight for NATA's air charter operator, maintenance repair station, general aviation airport, and advanced air mobility members.

As a member of Congress, Mr. Duffy demonstrated his commitment to sound policy and robust stakeholder collaboration – qualities that make him well-suited to assume leadership of the DOT and oversee implementation of the FAA Reauthorization Law of 2024. In addition, his proven understanding of the political landscape and established Capitol Hill relationships on both sides of the aisle will ensure his effectiveness immediately upon confirmation by the full Senate.

By scheduling the Commerce Committee nomination hearing for Mr. Duffy on January 15, 2025, you have signaled a shared understanding of the value of a smooth transition and importance of steady leadership to our national transportation systems. We stand ready to work with you and with the confirmed Secretary of Transportation to solidify U.S. global aviation leadership, modernize airport infrastructure, maintain essential air transportation options, and foster the continued safety and success of NATA's aviation business members.

Sincerely,

Curt Castagna, President and CEO

Cc: Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation