



As members of the Modern Skies Coalition, we emphatically urge the ending of the government shutdown. In the wake of the tragic accident at Washington Reagan National Airport, our Coalition came together focused on building an air traffic control (ATC) system that is the envy of the world, reducing costs and ending inefficiencies while upholding the highest standards of safety for all who use our nation's airspace. The government shutdown has disrupted that work and slowed the strong momentum we have built for modernization.

But the shutdown is having a much more direct, immediate impact. The job of keeping aviation safe and secure is tough every day, but forcing federal employees to do it without pay is unacceptable. Without immediate government action, the federal employees charged with the safety of our aviation system are missing paychecks again this week. We owe public servants at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and other agencies supporting aviation, like the National Transportation Safety Board, the Transportation Security Administration and Customs and Border Protection, a debt of gratitude and a swift ending to this shutdown.

The FAA has recognized the stress on the air traffic control system and began reducing the number of flights to manage and mitigate safety risk. The shutdown is causing the FAA to reduce airline and other aviation services as we approach one of the most important travel holidays of the year. The projection is for record volume, 31 million passengers, during the Thanksgiving travel period. At this time of record air travel and increased reliance on cargo shipments, stability and predictability for U.S. aviation are more important than ever.

Even before the shutdown, there was widespread recognition that we were dealing with an ailing air traffic control system. Congress recently made a significant downpayment on modernizing the FAA's antiquated air traffic control system and the Department of Transportation (DOT) has prioritized 'supercharging' hiring to get air traffic control facilities fully staffed. But those initiatives are challenged as the shutdown continues. As Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy has championed, we need much, much more for air traffic investment in this country. The shutdown takes all of that in the wrong direction.

Given all the challenges associated with the shutdown, it must end immediately. But that will not be enough. Congress and the Administration must pass a full FY2026 Transportation appropriations bill to continue needed investments in controller staffing and training; technicians and aviation safety personnel; and technology and air traffic facilities.

Despite this current setback, the Modern Skies Coalition is still bullish on delivering a new air traffic control system that is a global leader, but every day of the shutdown makes the task harder.

Congress, end the shutdown now!

Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Aerospace Industries Association
Affordable Skies
Airline Passenger Experience Association
Air Line Pilots Association, International
Air Traffic Control Association
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airlines for America
Airports Council International – North America
Allied Pilots Association
Alpha Eta Rho
American Association of Airport Executives
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Society of Travel Advisors
International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
International Brotherhood of Teamsters
International Council of Air Shows
International Flight Services Association
National Agricultural Aviation Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Association of State Aviation Officials
National Business Aviation Association
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, AFL-CIO
RTCA

Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
 Association of Air Medical Services
 Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
 Association of Professional Flight Attendants
 Association of Value Airlines
 Aviation Technical Education Council
 Cargo Airline Association
 Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
 Corporate Aircraft Association
 Experimental Aircraft Association
 General Aviation Manufacturers Association
 Global Business Travel Association
 International Aircraft Dealers Association
 International Air Transport Association
 Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association
 Recreational Aviation Foundation
 Regional Airline Association
 Southwest Airlines Pilots Association
 Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
 Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
 Travelers United
 United States Parachute Association
 United States Tour Operators Association
 U.S. Contract Tower Association
 U.S. Helicopter Safety Team
 U.S. Travel Association
 Vertical Aviation International
 Vertical Flight Society