



Marion C. Blakey
President and Chief Executive Officer

December 4, 2007

The Honorable John W. Olver
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Appropriations
For Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Olver:

AIA represents nearly 300 manufacturing companies with over 642,000 high-wage, highly skilled employees. We operate as the largest aerospace trade association in the United States across three sectors: civil aviation, space systems, and national defense. Our member companies export 40 percent of their total output, and we routinely post the nation's largest manufacturing trade surplus, a level approaching \$57 billion in 2007. Aerospace companies also continue to invest heavily in R&D, spending more than \$50 billion over the last 15 years.

As an industry, we have teamed with Agencies and Departments from across the government to leverage our creative and technological know-how to help design and develop the Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) using the state of the art ground, air and satellite-based technology. This is by no means a simple or easy task, and a considerable amount of work must be completed in the years to come. NextGen represents tremendous opportunities for our country; however it must be provided the appropriate resources to succeed.

As we approach the holiday travel season, the headlines continue to remind us of the true limitations of our current aviation infrastructure. Keeping the NextGen modernization effort on track will create an infrastructure that promotes the country's long-term economic growth. If the NextGen effort falters due to funding, critical infrastructure enhancement programs will cease, already severe delays will worsen, and the system will deteriorate into gridlock. With that said, we collectively encourage Congress to act immediately and provide the Department of Transportation \$14.94 Billion for FAA for FY 08.

Finally, AIA appreciates your consideration of this funding level, and looks forward to working with you as we commence work on the FY 09 budget process later next year. Thank you once again for your leadership on FAA budget and policy matters.

With warm regards,

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Marion C. Blakey
President and CEO



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President and Chief Executive Officer

December 4, 2007

The Honorable Joseph Knollenberg
Ranking Member
House Subcommittee on Appropriations
For Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Knollenberg:

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Marion C. Blakey
President and CEO



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President and Chief Executive Officer

December 4, 2007

The Honorable David Obey
Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Obey:

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President and CEO



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December 4, 2007

The Honorable Jerry Lewis
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lewis:

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President and CEO



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December 4, 2007

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Chairman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Byrd:

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President and CEO



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December 4, 2007

The Honorable Thad Cochran
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Cochran:

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December 4, 2007

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chairwoman
Senate Committee on Appropriations
For Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Murray:

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The Honorable Kit Bond
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Appropriations
For Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Bond:

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