

Legislative Priorities: 111th Congress, Second Session

Protecting the Aviation Maintenance Industry in FAA Reauthorization

The Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA) opposes the enactment of legislation that would inhibit overseas maintenance of U.S.-registered aircraft and related components by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificated repair stations. Restrictive action by Congress is unnecessary given the strict oversight of foreign facilities by the FAA, other national aviation authorities (NAA), airline customers, and the repair stations themselves. In addition, such action will cause damaging repercussions for domestic aviation maintenance companies competing in the international aviation marketplace.

Ensuring Congress Understands the Facts about Aviation Safety

When dealing with aviation safety, some would rather use fear than fact as the basis for law. Recent legislative proposals suggest that many on Capitol Hill do not understand the aviation industry. These bills have the common goal of scaring the public while, if enacted, placing undue burdens on safety-conscious businesses. The reality is that certificated entities worldwide perform work of unsurpassed quality, adhere to uniform standards and rules, and have a robust safety record. ARSA continues to educate the public, policymakers, and the media on the exemplary safety record of the aviation maintenance industry.

Giving the FAA and TSA the Money it Needs to Do the Job Right

As a heavily regulated industry, the aviation community needs to ensure agencies such as the FAA and Transportation Security Administration (TSA) receive the funding they need to provide oversight and rulemaking. Congress' failure to provide adequate funding for inspectors and an increased workforce will mean that oversight will take longer and be less efficient, ultimately undermining the competitiveness of the U.S. aviation industry. Meanwhile, Congress continues to push TSA on aviation safety issues, yet has not given TSA the proper resources to accomplish its goals. ARSA calls on Congress to adequately fund these agencies to prevent companies from being disadvantaged by administrative delays.

Developing an Aviation Technical Workforce

The aviation maintenance industry faces a shortage of qualified, trained technical workers. Congress must channel resources to the training and hiring of a new generation of workers to maintain the high quality of U.S. civil aviation. Steps must be taken now to prevent an industry-wide shortage. The reauthorization of the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) presents an excellent opportunity to train the future workers and leaders of the aviation industry.

Supporting Businesses

ARSA is continually promoting pro-growth tax policies and is vigilant for threats and opportunities impacting small businesses. For example, ARSA has been vigorously supporting repeal of the 3% government contractor withholding tax scheduled to take effect in 2012. In addition, ARSA continues to support legislation to better enforce small business protections under the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

In addition, ARSA is committed to protecting the rights of employees and employers and opposes the "Employee Free Choice Act" ("card check") which would deprive individuals of the right to a secret ballot.