



**NATIONAL  
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April 8, 2008

The Honorable Calvin L. Scovel  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear General Scovel:

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss the recently released report, "Use of the National Airspace System" (CR-2008-028). We appreciate the time you took to clarify the report's focus, especially given the misinformation about the report that has circulated in recent weeks.

Specifically, we are pleased that you confirmed the following:

- The report does NOT address FAA cost allocation and does not make any judgments on current segment contributions. As the document clearly states, "this report does not address the cost of providing individual services."
- The report does NOT draw any conclusions on the causes of delay and specifically does NOT point to general aviation (GA) as a driver of airline delays. In fact, the report states "...at the 26 large primary airports we examined, air carriers accounted for 93 percent of all operations."
- With respect to the fuel tax, the report correctly notes that a fuel tax does mirror system usage and your report does NOT endorse any new fee or change in existing funding mechanisms. As NBAA noted in the meeting, air traffic control fees and charges everywhere in the world are based on weight and distance, and taxing fuel is the most efficient proxy for measuring weight and distance.

As you know, the general aviation community is committed to modernizing air traffic control and expanding the capacity of the aviation system. As a result, GA is partnering with the government to move modernization forward as quickly as possible. We look forward to working with you in the months ahead to expedite the system's transformation.

Thank you again for meeting with NBAA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Bolen".

Ed Bolen  
President and CEO  
National Business Aviation Association