



July 26, 2010

The Honorable John Kerry
Chairman, Committee on Foreign
Relations
United States Senate
218 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Richard Lugar
Ranking Member, Committee on Foreign
Relations
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Kerry and Ranking Member Lugar;

We are writing to ask for your immediate assistance on a critical issue for U.S. leadership in civil aviation. We urgently request that you confirm the nomination of Duane Woerth as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as soon as possible. There currently is no U.S. Permanent Representative for the upcoming ICAO triennial General Assembly that will convene on September 28, 2010. This Assembly will determine global actions and priorities in the areas of aviation safety, security and environment.

We believe the U.S. has been disadvantaged by the lack of a Permanent Representative at ICAO over the past 18 months. During that time ICAO has hosted a number of high level events in aviation safety, security, and environmental matters, and the absence of a U.S. Permanent Representative has made it difficult to secure multi-lateral agreements on positions favorable to our interest. In addition, there are ongoing efforts by both the European Union and other regional blocks to advance their priorities for ICAO prior to the Assembly. We share a growing concern that the U.S. ability to impact those outcomes will be compromised, especially as they affect votes within ICAO, on the budget, or other issues that impact international aviation.

President Obama nominated Mr. Woerth for this position on July 1, 2010. We viewed this nomination as a positive sign of the Administration's commitment to U.S. leadership within the United Nations and the global aerospace industry. Mr. Woerth has the background, capabilities, and interest to help influence ICAO as we transform aviation in the U.S. into the next generation of air traffic management. We need to ensure that the international aviation community is able to harmonize their systems and benefit from our efforts. As a former military and commercial pilot with extensive experience in the aviation industry, Mr. Woerth is uniquely equipped for these challenges.

We respectfully request your intervention and support for this nomination and request that Mr. Woerth be confirmed quickly to ensure his participation in preparations for this important upcoming General Assembly meeting.

Sincerely,

**Aerospace Industries Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airports Council International-North America
Air Line Pilots Association, International
Air Transport Association
American Association of Airport Executives
Cargo Airline Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
Regional Airline Association**