



September 21, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Minority Leader
United States Senate
361-A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Reid and Senator McConnell;

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 ensure Senate consideration of the nomination of Mr. Duane Woerth as the U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) as soon as possible. The Foreign Relations Committee is expected to vote favorably on his nomination today. There currently is no U.S. Permanent Representative for the upcoming ICAO triennial General Assembly, which 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 United States 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 multilateral agreements on positions favorable to our interests. In addition, there are ongoing efforts by both the European Union and other regional blocs 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 United States and move toward 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 this important upcoming General Assembly meeting.

Sincerely,

Aerospace Industries Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Air Line Pilots Association, International
Air Transport Association
Airports Council International
American Association of Airport Executives
Association of Flight Attendants – CWA
Cargo Airline Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Business Aviation Association
Regional Airline Association