Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 2, 2013

The Honorable Ray H. LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

In light of the President's recent signing of the Reducing Flight Delays Act of 2013, we write to urge you to utilize the authority in the Act to ensure the safety of our nation's air transportation system by preventing the closure of 149 contract air traffic control towers.

This legislation gives the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Transportation flexibility to use unobligated funds to ensure the safety of our nation's air transportation system. The unobligated funds of the Airport Improvement Program account made available to the FAA through this legislation should be used to prevent the closure of the 149 contract air traffic control towers as well as halt the furloughs of our air traffic controllers.

Our nation's air transportation system is a comprehensive network of intertwined facilities, with air traffic control towers serving in the important role of helping pilots and their crews safely guide their aircraft between airports. Maintaining service at all contract air towers is intrinsic to the authority granted in this law to ensure a safe and efficient air transportation system.

Many Members of Congress expressed concerns regarding FAA's decision to close 149 contract air traffic control towers. To ensure responsible action by FAA and DOT, and to ensure the safety and efficiency of our skies, the Congress has directed this reprogramming of funds by law. We expect to hear very soon how the FAA and DOT will take immediate steps to fund the 149 contract air traffic control towers.

Sincerely,

Bob Goodlatte
Member of Congress

Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress

Tom Cotton
Member of Congress

Robert Hurt
Member of Congress

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