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NYAMA Position on Air Traffic Control (ATC) Privatization

NYAMA is encouraged that Congress recognizes the critical need to reduce air traffic delays and rebuild and modernize the nation's aviation infrastructure as evidenced by provisions contained in H.R. 2997. NYAMA is also pleased with the robust national discussion taking place to develop a consensus among aviation stakeholders as to the shortcomings in the current air control system and the appropriate strategy for more efficient airspace, faster delivery of NextGen, and the desire for a highly skilled workforce being given the resources to achieve its mission.

Reform is necessary. Airports must have the tools and resources to address their needs; as does the FAA. NYAMA supports a more long-term guaranteed funding stream and greater flexibility for systems and equipment procurement. The House FAA Reauthorization Bill represents progress in this regard. NYAMA joins a consensus that believes the status quo no longer works well and is responsible for stifling technology deployment, safety advances and operational improvements. However, the proposal to remove Air Traffic Control from the federal system is far from being widely embraced by the majority of stakeholders as the appropriate reform.

Therefore, NYAMA is concerned that airports and the needs and interests of the general aviation sectors be better represented in a more open debate in Washington that seeks strategies and structural reforms that are based on scientific analysis and that can truly lead to an appropriate path for modernization of our air traffic control system. We are not there yet.