

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 14, 2017

Democratic Leaders of Authorizing, Appropriations, and Revenue Committees United in Opposition to H.R. 2997

Dear Democratic Colleague:

Next week, the House is expected to consider H.R. 2997, the 21st Century AIRR Act, to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The bill includes a highly controversial plan to privatize the Nation's air traffic control (ATC) system.

First, we write to ensure that you know that we steadfastly oppose H.R. 2997 and its provisions to privatize the ATC system. The bill is a dangerous gamble with aviation safety and the future of the system. During the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure markup of the bill, every Democrat and one Republican opposed the bill. The Democratic Leaders of the Committee on Appropriations, Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and the Committee on Ways and Means also oppose the bill.

Second, it is important to know that Democratic Members of two key authorizing committees—the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Ways and Means— were completely shut out of the process with regard to this legislation. The Republicans drafted the important research and tax titles in secret and never considered these issues in their respective committees. These Committees had no hearings, no markups, and no meaningful opportunity for Democrats to participate.

As Democratic leaders of the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Appropriations, Science, Space, and Technology, and Ways and Means, we strongly urge you to join with us and oppose H.R. 2997 and its reckless plan to privatize the ATC system.

If you have any questions, please contact us, or have your staff contact the Democratic staff of the Subcommittee on Aviation (ext. 5-9161).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



PETER DeFAZIO
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



RICK LARSEN
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure



NITA M. LOWEY
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