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Senator Barbara Boxer
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Diane Feinstein
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Xavier Becerra
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Grace Napolitano
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Janice Hahn
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Julia Brownley
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mimi Walters
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Members of Congress:

Congress will soon consider legislation to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), including the programs that fund our aviation infrastructure. We want you to know this legislation is very important to the labor community and we want to express our full support for California's airports.

On behalf of the 140,000 skilled members of 48 Building Trades local unions and district councils in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, I urge you to lift the federal cap on local funds that can be raised by the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) for modernizing our airports.

Modern airports are critical to our ability to create construction, tourism and aviation jobs in California, attract international travelers, and grow our state's businesses in a global economy.

FAA is forecasting that air travel is going to almost double over the next 20 years with California continuing to be the top state for international arrivals and the total number of people boarding airplanes. At Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) alone, there are over \$8 billion in ongoing construction projects to make sure LAX can keep up with this demand. These projects are supported by PFC revenues and have directly created over 24,500 construction jobs in the region.

These jobs are part of lifelong Building Trades careers. They offer competitive wages, good benefits and retirement security. These are truly the careers that provide income mobility and growth at a time when the US economy is struggling to provide these kinds of jobs. We in the Building Trades are accomplishing this, and lifting the cap will enable many more people to thrive in America's middle class.

LAX is nearing the limit of its PFC funds and it is critical to lift the federal cap so that LAX can launch the \$5.1 billion landside modernization program. This program will fix the congestion facing anyone coming and going from LAX by tying the airport into Metro and local transit, reducing roadway congestion and improving parking. In addition, it will be the largest construction project in Southern California, creating over 25,000 additional construction jobs. Once built, it will also reduce air pollution in the airport area—addressing another urgent concern for quality of life throughout our state and nation.

It has been 15 years since Congress last raised the cap on the local PFC. Lifting the cap does not cost the federal budget, but according to the Government Accountability Office, it will let large airports in the United States raise over \$30 billion over the next 10 years for airport modernization projects.

As we all know, airline mergers have cut competition and let the big carriers raise the average ticket by \$48 in just five years. Airlines race to charge more \$25 to \$150 baggage and “ancillary” fees, while continuing to put “fuel surcharges” on tickets even as oil prices plummet. Sticking flyers with higher tickets and a growing list of fees makes airline claims that they are worried that some LAX customers will hesitate to pay *four more dollars* in PFCs look ridiculous and dishonest.

Lifting the PFC is one of the only tools we have to open the door to new competition that can lower airline prices. PFCs give airports the resources they need to build new gates, expand capacity and attract new airline competitors. More specifically, Congress’ approval to lift the PFC cap is critical to financing the Automated People Mover system--the backbone on which the LAX Landside Modernization program depends

We ask you to support raising the PFC in order to help modernize LAX and California’s many airports, and create high-quality construction jobs for your constituents. This is important to the Building Trades. We need a world-class airport and the best in infrastructure.

Very truly yours,



Ron Miller
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