## Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 6, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner Speaker U.S. House of Representatives H-232 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling Co-Chair Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction 129 Cannon House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515 The Honorable Harry Reid Majority Leader U.S. Senate S-221 The Capitol Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray Co-Chair Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction 173 Russell Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Speaker Boehner, Senator Reid, Rep. Hensarling, and Senator Murray:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to imposing a \$100 per flight fee on commercial and general aviation as proposed in the Administration's deficit reduction plan.

Imposing a new fee on the aviation industry in order to raise revenue would have a devastating impact on the aviation industry and fails to achieve our shared goal of improving the economy and creating jobs.

Commercial aviation is responsible for more than 10 million jobs and \$1 trillion in economic activity. Today it is facing high fuel costs and a slow economy. The proposed flight departure fee would cost the airlines an estimated \$1 billion a year. We should not put significant new costs on commercial airlines.

Likewise, we should not impose a new fee on general aviation. The House has rejected previous proposals regarding user fees on general aviation, and we should do so again this time. Imposing such a fee would stifle this industry, as has been the case in other countries where user fees have been put in place. General aviation is an important contributor to our economy, with 1.3 million jobs and \$150 billion in economic activity each year.

Again, the imposition of a \$100 per flight fee would be detrimental to efforts to spur economic growth and, in fact, would negatively impact commercial aviation, general aviation and manufacturers. We should reject it.

Sincerely,

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