



FEDERAL AVIATION ACT REAUTHORIZATION

House – Passed H.R. 915
Senate – Pending

Request: Reauthorize the Federal Aviation Act and incorporate city priorities.

Community Value:

Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport is one of the top 10 busiest airports in the United States. Approximately 36,000 people work at Sky Harbor, and its financial health is critical to business and the economic vitality in the state. This economic engine is the gateway to the Southwest and provides an opportunity for commerce and tourism that benefits the entire state.



Background:

Passenger Facility Charge (PFC)

As part of the reauthorization process, it is vital to renew the PFC provision that is used to fund the operation and maintenance of airports. This PFC figure must be set at a rate that provides for the basic safety and maintenance of airfields as well as transportation to terminal areas. The city supports the current House-proposed cap of \$7.50 and linking the rate to the Consumer's Price Index for Construction.

Fire Fighting Protection Local Control

The local establishment of fire fighting standards will ensure that each community has the "right fit" for their level of service. This local control will best maximize the resources used for aviation safety without excessive unfunded mandates that would likely put many airports out of business.

Structure Heights

Nationwide and locally, the construction of tall structures in flight paths and emergency action areas of airports reduces the efficiency of air carriers and airports. As part of the FAA reauthorization mission, the approval process for buildings neighboring airports must be addressed through a federal study that clarifies the process and addresses building heights that encroach on airport takeoffs and landings.

Noise Mitigation Funding

Language to preserve the use of noise mitigation grants for land acquisition is critical to maintaining positive relations with the community bordering airports. These funds have been used to mitigate noise impacts by purchasing property from volunteers and sound mitigating nearby homes, community assets and businesses. Another important component is the ability to reinvest lease revenues at airport facilities. An increase in the overall Airport Improvement Program funds will make more grant funding available for capital and other eligible projects.

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