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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
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August 4, 2011

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

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I respectfully request that you immediately call the House back in to session to pass an extension of the Federal Aviation Authority authorization and resolve differences with the Senate to ensure that more than 4,000 FAA employees can return to work, more than 70,000 construction workers can resume important airport improvement and modernization projects, and that fees imposed on consumers go to the purposes for which they were intended.

As you know, without temporary extension of authority granted by Congress, the FAA is unable to collect fees and excise taxes that fund its Airport Improvement Program capital grants and \$11 billion in contracts for work on towers, terminals and airfields that come out of its Facilities and Equipment account. The losses to this important fund total more than \$200 million per week, and could reach more than \$1.3 billion by the time Congress returns in September. The lack of authority for these taxes is not rebounding to the benefit of consumers, but is providing a windfall benefit for the airlines that continue to collect them.

It is simply unconscionable that the Congress should leave for its summer recess while thousands of furloughed employees are not being paid and are struggling to pay their mortgages, their children's college tuition, or take their own vacations. This is particularly unfair given that a simple solution is at hand—the House can pass another clean short term extension until Congress returns in September. Although I share your concerns about excessive subsidies being provided to a few small airports, such program and policy issues are best settled at conference and not in a bill to temporarily extend FAA's authority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you in the strongest possible terms to put the lives of thousands of hard working Americans above the politics of Washington and bring the House back in to session to resolve this issue in a way that can pass the Senate and be signed by the President.

All the best,



Jackie Speier
Member of Congress