

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 14, 2013

Michael Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta,

We are deeply troubled by your public statements and proposed actions regarding the effect of sequestration on local airports. These airports have long played a vital role in economies across the country. Local airports serve as a gateway to distant markets for local businesses, as a primary link between rural communities and the larger aviation network, and as a critical backup to some of our nation's busiest airports.

Over the past two weeks, you and Secretary LaHood have decried the cuts imposed by the sequester as "crippling" and fatal for the Federal Aviation Administration. Your office has released a list of contract towers that you claim will be abandoned to meet the \$628 million in cuts from the sequester. These cuts would reduce funding for nearly 200 contract control towers out of the 250 towers in the program. Combined, these airports handle 28% of tower operations nationwide, playing a vital role in our nation's transportation infrastructure. Put simply, these cuts are drastic, unnecessary, and should be reevaluated.

We expect a responsible executive in your position to propose rational solutions to minimize the effect of these cuts on the aviation infrastructure and the traveling public. In fact, Congress requested such a plan six months ago. But your department has failed to deliver such plans, an unacceptable failure to respond to modest belt-tightening that so many American families have done over the last four years.

As Representative Sam Graves noted during your testimony before the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Aviation last week, these modest reductions would return FAA funding to the same level it had in FY2008. We find it difficult to believe the FAA cannot now manage these spending reductions since it seemed to perform just fine in 2008. This is particularly disappointing considering your organization spends \$500 million on consultants and \$200 million on travel each year, yet it apparently cannot find \$30 million a month to offset the sequester reductions.

We therefore request you provide:

- a detailed assessment of the effects the closure of 189 contract towers would have on our aviation infrastructure's structural integrity
- a detailed list of other alternatives that were considered to mitigate the sequester's effect on the Contract Tower Program
- a detailed list of all planned FY2013 thru FY2015 conventions, conferences, and trips that were organized, paid for, or attended by FAA staff and their cost to taxpayers

Please provide this information no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on March 29, 2013. Thank you for your prompt attention.

Sincerely,



Tom Cotton  
Member of Congress



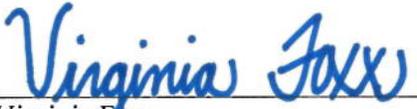
John Boozman  
United States Senator



James Bisch  
United States Senator



Martha Roby  
Member of Congress



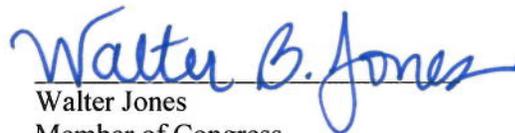
Virginia Foxx  
Member of Congress



Bob Goodlatte  
Member of Congress



Rich Nugent  
Member of Congress



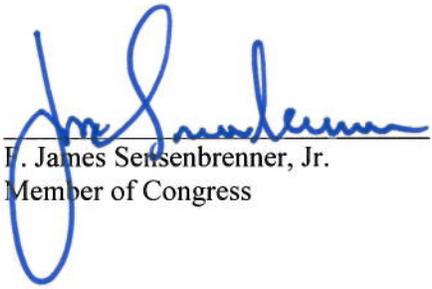
Walter Jones  
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna  
Member of Congress



David McKinley  
Member of Congress



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F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr.  
Member of Congress



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Rick Crawford  
Member of Congress



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Paul C. Broun, M.D.  
Member of Congress



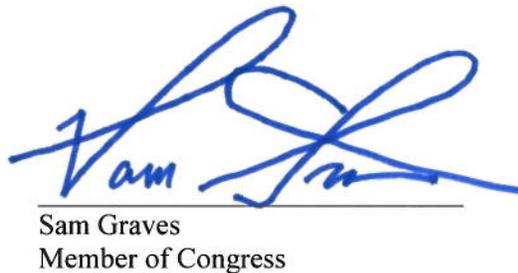
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Steve Pearce  
Member of Congress



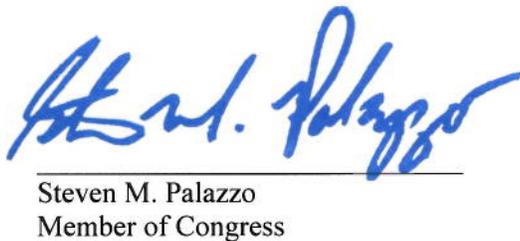
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Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.  
Member of Congress



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Sam Graves  
Member of Congress



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Steven M. Palazzo  
Member of Congress



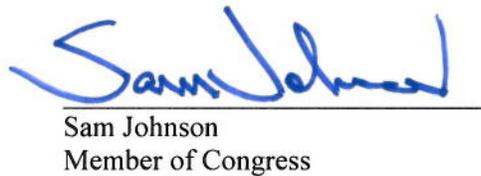
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Pat Tiberi  
Member of Congress



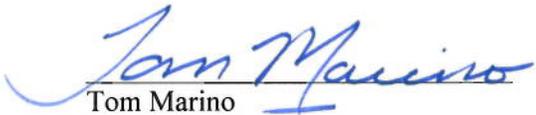
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Sean Duffy  
Member of Congress



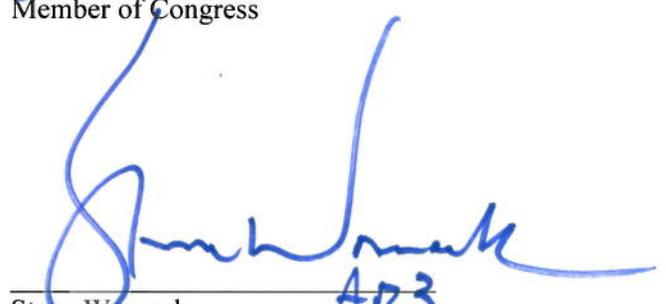
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Sam Johnson  
Member of Congress

  
Tom Marino  
Member of Congress

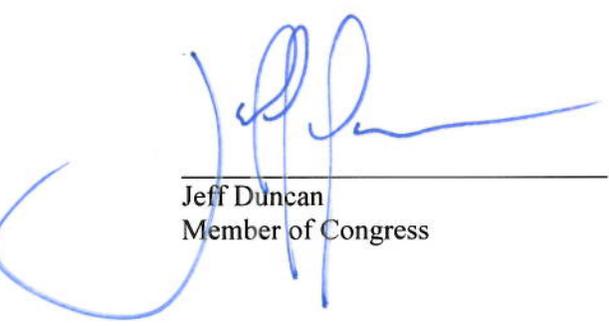
  
Tom Petri  
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Blake Farenthold  
Member of Congress

  
Steve Womack  
Member of Congress

  
Pete Olson  
Member of Congress

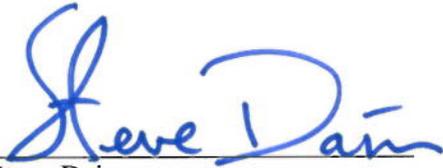
  
Ralph Hall  
Member of Congress

  
Jeff Duncan  
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Mario Diaz-Balart  
Member of Congress

  
Mike Simpson  
Member of Congress

  
Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



Steve Daines  
Member of Congress



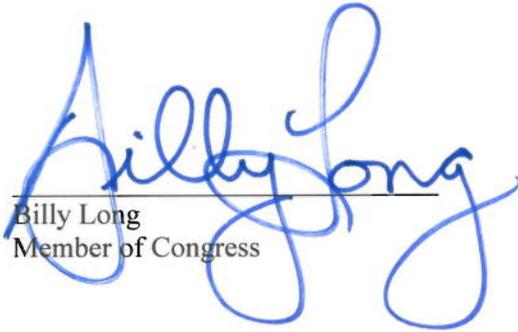
Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek  
Member of Congress



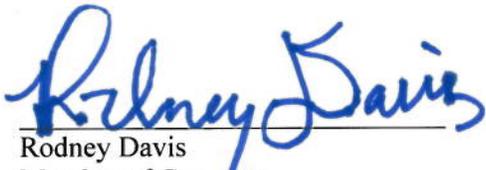
Tim Griffin  
Member of Congress



Billy Long  
Member of Congress



Joe Barton  
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis  
Member of Congress



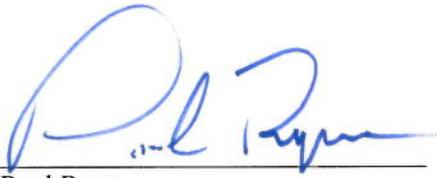
Tom Cole  
Member of Congress



Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



Steve Stivers  
Member of Congress



Paul Ryan  
Member of Congress



Pedro R. Pierluisi  
Member of Congress



Ed Royce  
Member of Congress



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress



Raul Labrador  
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