



November 10, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Democratic Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Democratic Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Leader Jeffries:

The government shutdown—now in its 41st day—is taking a severe toll on the American economy, particularly in aviation. Airports across the country continue to adapt, but the operational and economic impacts have grown considerably.

We are grateful to the United States Senate for reaching an agreement on a continuing resolution to reopen the federal government. **We urge swift approval of the agreement in the Senate and House.** Once enacted, the administration should act swiftly to restore pay for federal employees and bring operational certainty back to the aviation system—certainty that is essential to the safety, security, and efficiency of the national airspace.

Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA) and our member airports stand firmly with the dedicated federal employees who keep our aviation system safe, efficient, and secure—even as they go unpaid. Since October 1, airports and partners have supported these workers through donation drives, local nonprofit partnerships, and meals for those continuing to report for duty.

And since Friday, airports have worked alongside airlines to implement the Federal Aviation Administration's order to reduce air traffic. Airports are on the front lines, coordinating with partners and passengers to keep operations running and minimizing disruptions to the traveling public.

We remain deeply concerned that the strain on the National Airspace System will worsen if the government does not reopen quickly. Airports generate \$1.8 trillion in annual economic output and support 12.8 million jobs. Each one-percent reduction in capacity costs an estimated **\$32.7 million in lost economic output *per day***. These cascading effects are already being felt across multiple sectors.

Airports are gateways to our communities, connecting people, businesses, and supply chains. As we approach the holidays, ensuring safe, reliable air travel depends on our federal partners being fully staffed and focused.

We urge Congress not only to reopen the government immediately but also to take steps to prevent future shutdowns that jeopardize aviation safety, security, efficiency, and economic stability. The work of the Federal Aviation Administration, Transportation Security Administration, Customs and Border Protection, and other vital agencies is too important to be disrupted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kevin M. Burke". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kevin" and last name "Burke" clearly legible, and "M." as a middle initial.

Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO
Airports Council International - North America