

1 February 2012

The Honorable Max Baucus  
United States Senate  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

I'm writing on behalf of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-United States of America to urge conferees to pass a long-term reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration.

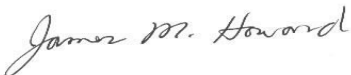
We are encouraged to see that Congress has passed a temporary extension of existing authorization that will run through Feb. 17. However, recognizing this is the 23<sup>rd</sup> FAA extension since the 2007 expiration of the previous long-term law, it is our goal to support Congress in meeting its objective of assuring the safety of future air transportation by providing a multi-year reauthorization to ensure that the FAA's Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) is not delayed.

Overhaul of our National Airspace System (NAS) through NextGen promises to make air travel more convenient and dependable, while ensuring our nation continues to have the safest most secure flights possible. NextGen will transform our NAS from the current World War II- era ground-based navigation, radar & voice communication system to a modern satellite and performance-based system. It will enhance air safety and reduce expenses by allowing planes to fly closer to one another and to follow more direct flight paths.

Parceling out money to the FAA in short term increments makes it very difficult to plan the long-term improvements we need for NextGen. Prompt action on a long-term authorization is vitally needed to avoid such potentially harmful consequences.

IEEE-USA (<http://www.ieeeusa.org>.) advances the public good and promotes the careers and public policy interests of 210,000 engineering, computing and technology professionals who are U.S. members of IEEE. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Bill Williams in our Washington office at (202) 530-8331 or email at [bill.williams@ieee.org](mailto:bill.williams@ieee.org)

Sincerely,



James M. Howard  
IEEE-USA President