September 29, 2017

The Aerospace Industries Association of America represents more than 340 U.S. manufacturing, service and supply companies in the aerospace and defense sectors. Our 2.4 million employees make up 13 percent of America’s manufacturing sector and have a vital interest in the Federal Aviation Administration’s (FAA) efforts to streamline its certification procedures for large transport and general aviation aircraft. Improving these procedures will enable our industry to add to the over $90 billion positive balance it already makes in our nation’s net trade position.

In 2012, Congress took a leading role in guiding these efforts by directing the FAA to identify recommendations for greater efficiency. The FAA’s Section 312 Aviation Rulemaking Committee submitted its recommendations to the agency on May 22, 2012 – more than five years ago – and many of those ideas along with other important streamlining proposals were reflected in last year’s FAA reauthorization bills. Although not yet enacted into law, your respective committees approved a similar set of reforms this year. We believe this demonstrates strong bipartisan support for enacting comprehensive reforms without further delay.

Aviation stakeholders remember the difficulties posed by 23 short-term extensions and four years of delay on the way to the 2012 law. With that bill now expired for almost two years and the current extension expiring at the end of this month, it is critical for Congress to enact this important legislation now. Our global competitors are gaining ground and our regulatory burdens must be reformed if we are to maintain a leadership position. Furthermore, U.S. aircraft manufacturers and suppliers need a stable and well-understood regulatory environment if we are to plan, hire and invest effectively – and with confidence – for the future. We strongly urge Congress to enact FAA certification streamlining reforms before the end of 2017.

Sincerely,

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