



## PROFESSIONAL AVIATION SAFETY SPECIALISTS

1200 G Street NW, Suite 750 • Washington, DC 20005  
Telephone: (202) 293-7277 • Fax: (202) 293-7727

Founded 1977

January 3, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
United States Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leader McConnell:

On behalf of the Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, AFL-CIO (PASS), I am writing to urge you to immediately pass legislation to end the partial shutdown of the federal government when the 116th Congress convenes on January 3, 2019.

PASS represents more than 11,000 dedicated employees at the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). These include the technicians who maintain and repair our nation's vast and complex air traffic control system, which, as you know, is the largest in the world. We also represent employees in the FAA's office of aviation safety, including over 3,000 aviation safety inspectors and technicians, who oversee every aspect of the aviation industry to ensure adherence to FAA regulations and safety standards. These are the employees who inspect aircraft, pilots and safety practices to keep all flyers safe. Working alongside the technicians and safety inspectors are thousands of administrative and support personnel.

The impacts of the government shutdown that began on December 22 have been widespread. While our air traffic technician workforce has remained on the job to ensure that the FAA's air traffic control system continues to operate safely and efficiently during the busy holiday season, these hardworking men and women have done so without knowing when they will receive their next paycheck, causing them undue stress and placing an unnecessary burden on their families.

More concerning, however, are the more than 4,000 PASS-represented employees in the office of aviation safety who have been furloughed since the beginning of the shutdown. These dedicated employees—who seek to maintain the U.S. aviation system as the safest in the world—have been unable to provide critical safety oversight of general aviation and commercial aircraft, pilots and flight instructors, and repair stations both in this country and abroad. Further, the modernization of the National Airspace System (NAS) has been stopped in its tracks, with training and progress of initiatives suffering unnecessary delays and considerable setbacks.

Our aviation system contributes \$1.5 trillion and 12 million American jobs to our nation's economy and provides invaluable services to the flying public and the military. The 2013 government shutdown was estimated to cost the U.S. economy \$24 billion and resulted in a backlog of aircraft inspections and design approvals, among other delays. It is critical that the U.S. Congress takes urgent action to end the shutdown and allow all FAA employees to get back to work to ensure the safety and efficiency of the country's air traffic control system.

Sincerely,

Mike Perrone  
National President