



Contributors



Issue Overview, Jul. 29, 2022

[House Passes Minibus Appropriations Bill](#)

[Senate Reaches Reconciliation Deal, Includes SAF Provisions](#)

[Senate Releases Spending Bills](#)

[Extension of the Requirement for Helicopters to Use the New York North Shore Route](#)

[Gov. Newsom Declares Wildfire Emergency](#)

HAI International News

[Countries Support “Net-Zero 2050” Emissions Target](#)

European Helicopter Association (EHA) Contribution

[Czech Presidency of the Council—Minister Kupka Presented Transport Priorities of the Czech Presidency to MEPs](#)

House Passes Minibus Appropriations Bill

Last week, six of the twelve appropriations bills for the 2023 fiscal year were packaged together as one measure and passed by the House. The minibus package, H.R. 8294, was originally introduced as the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development (THUD) FY 2023 appropriations bill. In addition to the THUD bill, the minibus also contains the bills for Agriculture, Energy and Water, Financial Services, Interior-Environment, and the Military Construction-VA bill.

HAI successfully defeated one amendment to this bill which would have permitted airports to violate their federal grand assurances if they ended the use of 100-octane low-lead aviation gasoline. If individual airports were allowed to ban the sale of 100-octane low-lead fuel on a random basis, it would lead to significant confusion among the general aviation operator community and potential life-threatening instances of misfueling

and fuel starvation. Instead, HAI asked Congress to help expedite the elimination of leaded aviation fuels by providing resources and support for testing and identifying an unleaded replacement fuel.

The THUD appropriations bill provides \$90.9 billion in funding, an increase of \$9.9 billion, or more than 12%, above FY 2022 funding levels. The Department of Transportation is set to receive \$837 million of the total amount. Of this amount, approximately \$18.7 billion is portioned for the FAA, including \$1.6 billion for aviation safety and \$273 million for discretionary Airport Improvement Program grants and projects. This is \$193 million above the funding levels for FY 2022. An additional \$775 million is set aside for National Infrastructure Investments such as the RAISE program. At least 5% of the amounts provided for national infrastructure investment must be made available for the planning, preparation, or design of eligible projects and must prioritize transit-oriented projects and development, including multimodal projects which can support advanced air mobility operations.

Senate Reaches Reconciliation Deal, Includes SAF Provisions

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) and Sen. Joe Manchin (D-W.Va.) reached a deal on budget reconciliation and announced the details of the agreement on Wednesday, Jul. 27. The legislation, known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, provides \$739 billion in deficit-reduction measures over 10 years and would reduce the deficit by about \$306 billion over a decade. The bill would also provide \$369 billion in funds for energy and climate measures. This climate funding includes five years of sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) tax provisions. The SAF blender's tax credit (BTC) would be in place for 2023–2024 only. The clean fuel production credit (CFPC), which applies to all transportation fuel and provides an enhanced value for SAF relative to ground transportation, would apply for 2025–2027. According to this timeline, there would be two years of the SAF BTC at \$1.25–\$1.75 per gallon and 3 years of the CFPC up to \$1.75. SAF and other transportation fuels will qualify under the CFPC as long as their emissions are less than 50 kg/MMBtu. The refundability provisions of the SAF BTC will remain.

The legislative text of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 is being submitted to the parliamentarian to ensure it complies with the rules for the reconciliation process. The Senate plans to pass the measure next week under the fiscal 2022 budget reconciliation instructions, which require only a simple majority of 51 votes, rather than the usual 60 votes.

Senate Releases Spending Bills

Senate Democrats released their 12 annual appropriations bills for fiscal year 2023 on Thursday, Jul. 28. The bills were released to provide an

opening offer in spending talks and pave the path for bipartisan compromise after months of stalled negotiations. Although the legislation has now been released, Congress is unlikely to strike a funding deal anytime soon. It is more likely that members of Congress will rely on a stopgap funding measure after the Sep. 30 government funding deadline and reach a deal on funding during the November-December lame duck session. A “lame duck session” is a phrase used to describe the portion of a regular session that falls after an election, but before the next Congress convenes in January.

Extension of the Requirement for Helicopters to Use the New York North Shore Route

A new rule regarding the extension of the requirement for helicopters to use the New York North Shore helicopter route has been posted to the Federal Register inspection desk. This interim final rule with request for comment amends the expiration date of the rule requiring pilots operating civil helicopters under visual flight rules to use the New York North Shore helicopter route when operating along the northern shoreline of Long Island, New York. The current rule expires on Aug. 5, 2022. The FAA finds it necessary to extend the rule for four years. If published, this rule would be effective beginning on the date of publication through Jul. 29, 2026.

Click [here](#) to visit the Federal Register webpage and view the document.

Gov. Newsom Declares Wildfire Emergency

Governor Gavin Newsom declared a state of emergency in Wawona, California, on Saturday, Jul. 26 after a fast-moving brush fire near Yosemite National Park exploded to dangerous proportions. Over 6,000 people in the area were ordered to evacuate. The Oak Fire began on Friday afternoon and had grown to nearly 19 square miles (48 square kilometers) by Saturday. More than 400 firefighters, accompanied by helicopters, other aircraft, and bulldozers, battled the fire amid difficult conditions such as hot weather, low humidity, and incredibly dry vegetation caused by drought. The state of California has been threatened by larger and deadlier wildfires than ever before due to climate change effects over the last 30 years. HAI thanks the firefighters for their service to the Wawona community.

HAI International News

Countries Support “Net-Zero 2050” Emissions Target

Ministers and officials involved in high-level environmental discussions

organized by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) debated the feasibility of reaching the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The officials urged countries to cooperate through the UN agency and ultimately decided to support the emissions reduction goal. This long-term aspirational goal (LTAG) aligns with the Paris Agreement's temperature target and will help achieve sustainable aviation. The ICAO meeting, hosted at the ICAO headquarters in Montreal on Jul. 19–22, centered around the feasibility of an LTAG for international aviation CO2 emissions reductions and involved ministers and other high-level officials representing 119 countries. Over 700 participants from various states and international organizations directly involved in the aviation and environment sectors also participated in the hybrid meeting. The four-day meeting considered input from all contributing parties and covered a wide variety of scenarios and options for in-sector CO2 emissions reductions based on the latest technological innovations, new types of aircraft and operations, and increased global production capability for sustainable aviation fuel. The decision to support the goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050 confirms ICAO's commitment to contribute to the fight against climate change by reducing the aviation industry's CO2 emissions. This decision will next be considered by the ICAO Council in August, and then by all 193 contracting states to the Chicago Convention on International Civil Aviation at the upcoming 41st session of the ICAO Assembly in September.

European Helicopter Association (EHA) Contribution

Czech Presidency of the Council—Minister Kupka Presented Transport Priorities of the Czech Presidency to MEPs

From 11 to 13 July 2022, twelve Czech ministers presented the priorities of their ministries to the European Parliament. Among them was the Minister of Transport Martin Kupka, who presented ambitious plans in the domain of transport revision of the TEN-T regulation, promotion of high-speed railways across Europe, and strengthening of the role of the European Union in space.

This was what Minister Kupka spoke about to the Members of the European Parliament. Speaking in the Committee on Transport and Tourism (TRAN) and the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE), he presented and explained to MEPs the Czech Presidency's transport plans for the upcoming six months.

"I would like to thank all members of the TRAN and ITRE committees for the opportunity to present the priorities of the Czech presidency in the Council of the European Union. The Czech Republic assumed the presidency at tough times and in the face of the Russian invasion of Ukraine we are facing new challenges together.

And transportation is no exception. One of the main tasks over the next six months will be to make European transport flows more resilient. Therefore, we want to focus on the revision of the TEN-T rapid transit system and on moving forward with the negotiations on the design of the Secure Connectivity satellite system," said Minister Kupka after the hearing in the committees.

The revision of the TEN-T Regulation was an important point in Minister Kupka's speech to the TRAN committee. Another priority for the Czech presidency will be the proposal of alternative fuel infrastructure (AFIR) deployment and promotion of the use of sustainable fuels in air and maritime transport.

"These regulations are crucial because without them the European Union cannot achieve its target of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 55% by 2030. This is all the more important because it will enable us to meet the EU's objective of rapidly ending our dependence on Russian fossil fuels," said Minister Kupka.

The Czech Republic took over the presidency of the EU Council on 1 July. The main priorities in transportation are better connections and development of Europe's infrastructure, promotion of high-speed railways, and clean mobility. The Czech Republic will also focus on autonomous transport and support of space activities. Several events will take place during the Czech presidency. These will include, for example, an informal meeting of the Transport Council in Prague, Urban Mobility Days in Brno, and European Space Week, focusing on current and future trends in the European space program.

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