

THE VTOL ADVOCATE

Keeping Your Rotors Turning



December 30, 2022

Helicopter Association International (HAI) would like to wish its members a warm and happy holiday season. Thank you for reading our work every week and for helping us take action when needed. This year has been extremely eventful, and thanks to your engagement, the HAI Government Affairs team has been able to deliver several wins for HAI members:

- At the state and local levels, we were able to expand HAI workforce initiatives and block harmful legislation from becoming law. To strengthen our presence in the states, we welcomed Katia Veraza as HAI's new manager of government affairs and regional relations.
- At the federal level, we supported the first two advanced air mobility (AAM) bills ever to be signed into law, secured key funding and policy priorities in must-pass legislation, and helped lay the groundwork for a successful FAA reauthorization year by promoting HAI's priorities in two congressional hearings and in countless meetings on the Hill.
- At the international level, we increased our engagement and collaboration with our international members and civil aviation authority (CAA) partners to share best practices, address challenges and opportunities, and influence policy that will shape the future of vertical aviation.

This list of accomplishments is by no means comprehensive, but hopefully it sheds some light on the work we do for you, our valued members.

We would like to use the remainder of this year-end issue of VTOL Advocate to share our sincere appreciation for two retiring members of Congress, Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) and Rep. Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.), who spent their careers in public service fighting for policies that have made US aviation the envy of the world. Both Inhofe and DeFazio have been champions for vertical aviation, and HAI is immensely thankful for their leadership. ***We wish them both well in retirement!***

Sen. Jim Inhofe's Aviation Legacy

Congressional Service: 1994–2022

Jim Inhofe has a long history of public service, from his time in the US Army to his current role in the US Senate. Inhofe serves as the top Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee. He also serves on the Environment and Public Works Committee and the Small Business Committee.

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As the senior member on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Inhofe has been a committed supporter of US infrastructure. He believes that (1) one of the inherent roles of government is to provide for a safe and suitable infrastructure to allow the nation access to transportation that fully connects the national economy; and (2) one of the greatest services is providing the necessary infrastructure to enable the United States to remain the economic engine that drives the world's economy.

As a pilot with more than 11,000 flight hours, Sen. Inhofe has fought tirelessly for the general aviation (GA) community throughout his tenure in the US Senate. Beginning with his senatorial work in 1994, more than 28 years ago, Sen. Inhofe advocated for the entire GA community and made its priorities his own.

Some of Sen. Inhofe's most notable congressional successes for general aviation include enacting third-class medical reform, enhancing GA pilot protections, supporting commercial pilots, championing a strong aviation workforce for the 21st century, protecting contract towers, and supporting needed investments in GA and commercial aviation airport infrastructure. His key accomplishments include the following:

- **Sponsored and Passed S.Amdt.1663:** To develop a national policy and related procedures concerning the interface of the Automated Radar Terminal Systems and surveillance systems for visual flight rules (VFR) air traffic control towers
- **Introduced and Passed S.Amdt.1890:** To require the president to provide a report to specific congressional committees on any airspace restrictions put in place because of the Sep. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks that remain in place as of the date of the Aviation Security Act enactment
- **Sponsored S.959:** To amend the age limit established by the FAA for issuing or renewing pilot certificates and for other purposes
- **Cosponsored S.3661, Wright Amendment Reform Act of 2006**
- **Supported Passage of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009**
- **Cosponsored S.3268, The Pilot's Bill of Rights:** To afford GA pilots due process rights when facing FAA investigative or enforcement actions
- **Supported Passage of S.1596, Protecting Privacy Rights of Pilots:** To prevent unknown persons from monitoring the location of general aviation aircraft and the personal movements of individuals
- **Requested FAA Briefing on Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Test Sites**
- **Supported Protection of Contract Towers:** To compel the Senate Appropriations Committee to include full funding for the contract tower program in the 2014 FAA budget
- **Coauthored Letter Urging FAA Implementation of Third-Class Medical Reform**
- **Sponsored S.3217:** To provide a full annuity supplement for retired air traffic controllers who are employed after their retirement as full-time air traffic control instructors under contract with the FAA
- **Cosponsored Amendment Protecting Contract Weather Observers:** To require the FAA to retain contract weather professionals at certain airports as part of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2016, pending further study
- **Introduced a Bill to Modernize Aviation Maintenance:** To require the FAA to improve training programs at aviation maintenance technical schools by modernizing the mandated curriculum; enacted as part of Public Law 115-254
- **Introduced S. 2506:** To authorize the FAA to establish a pilot program for aviation maintenance workforce development to help close the skills gap and fill aviation maintenance jobs

- **Supported Passage of FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018**
- **Cosponsored The Promoting Aviation Regulations for Technical Training (PARTT) 147 Act of 2019:** To ensure aviation maintenance education institutions have the flexibility to teach core curriculum reflective of technical advances and innovation in the aviation and aerospace industry; incorporated in S.3969, The Aircraft Safety and Certification Reform Act of 2020
- **Sponsored S.1752:** To establish the National Center for the Advancement of Aviation
- **Introduced S.2453, S.2458, and S.2459:** To provide for investment in general aviation infrastructure and to support America's general aviation community
- **Led Letter Encouraging DOT and FAA Support of Aviation Maintenance Training Schools post-COVID**
- **Secured Funding for Aviation Programs in Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022.**

In addition, Sen. Inhofe has received numerous awards honoring his work on behalf of the aviation community, all highlighting his commitment to aviation. HAI thanks Sen. Inhofe for his contribution to the future of general aviation, and we look forward to continuing his legacy of dedicated work on behalf of the profession.

Rep. Peter DeFazio's Aviation Legacy

Congressional Service: 1987–2022

Peter DeFazio has spent 35 years in Congress working for Oregonians. In 2019, he was elected as chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee, which has authority over aviation, highways and transit, ports and water resources, railroads, the Coast Guard, and economic development. As chair, Rep. DeFazio has taken the lead role on multiple laws that have created jobs, kept the airline industry accountable, improved transportation options, kept the nation's ports open, and ensured the availability of clean drinking water.

Rep. DeFazio has been a passionate advocate and fierce champion for aviation safety and transportation labor. He authored the Moving Forward Act, which the House passed in 2020. The act will invest more than \$760 billion over 5 years to bring the nation's transportation and infrastructure up to a state of good repair and thereby create millions of jobs. His passion for infrastructure investment has fueled tremendous progress for airports, the nation's transportation system, and the entire country.

Rep. DeFazio is known for his commitment to the development of a robust multimodal national transportation system. He has played a key role in reauthorizing funding for the FAA and has helped inform lawmakers and staff about the importance of general aviation to the nation's economy and transportation system. Rep. DeFazio supported the FAA's oversight of air traffic control and was also one of the key leaders on legislation to amend Title 49 of the US Code.

As ranking member of the T&I Committee, DeFazio strongly opposed a proposal that would have completely dismantled the FAA to privatize the national air traffic control system. Rep. DeFazio stated, "Much like we would not privatize our roads, bridges, and highways, we should not privatize the highways of our skies."

Rep. DeFazio also helped introduce H.R.4042, the Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2021, bipartisan legislation that could protect FAA programs and personnel and the US aviation system from the effects of future government shutdowns.

During his time in Congress, Rep. DeFazio has been a major supporter of the aviation payroll support program (PSP). Under PSP, Congress invested \$54 billion to sustain airline employees during the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. PSP was crucial to ensuring that US airline employees remained on the job and were able to provide essential services, including transporting first responders, shipping medical equipment, and distributing vaccines. PSP further ensured that US airlines could make payroll and protect the jobs of flight attendants, pilots, mechanics, and others in the aviation industry.

Rep. DeFazio, a past recipient of the James L. Oberstar Sentinel of Safety Award, was honored as an aviation leader for displaying outstanding achievement in advancing aviation safety. HAI is grateful for Rep. DeFazio's leadership and hard work. Although his voice will be missed in the House of Representatives, his legacy will remain.

General aviation is vital to the US economy and connects us to the rest of the world. Thanks to leaders like Sen. Inhofe and Rep. DeFazio, the US aviation system continues to remain the largest, busiest, and safest in the world.

HAI happily anticipates meeting and working with our newly elected officials next year. Cheers to another year together. ***We look forward to the advancement of our industry in 2023!***

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Helicopter Association International

THE Trade Association for the International VTOL Community

Working Each Day to Keep the Rotors Turning

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