



Modern Skies Coalition Statement Calling on Congress to Stop Essential Work Without Pay that Jeopardizes Aviation Safety and Security

WASHINGTON, March 25, 2026 — The Modern Skies Coalition today issued the following statement on the ongoing Department of Homeland Security (DHS) shutdown:

As the shutdown stretches into its sixth week, Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers (TSOs) are now on day 40 without a full paycheck. Just last fall, federal aviation employees went 43 days without pay during the longest government shutdown in history. Acting Administrator Ha McNeill has said that TSOs have now been working without pay for one half of the fiscal year!

It is up to Congress to ensure that TSA officers, U.S. Customs airport officers, air traffic controllers and others are paid for the essential work they do every day to keep passengers and cargo moving safely and securely.

Government shutdowns have real life impacts. The human cost is real with more than 400 TSA officers quitting, thousands of passengers impacted by delays and 4+ hour wait times at airports. Congress must act now before our system breaks.

At the same time, our nation's air traffic control system is also under immense strain from a longstanding air traffic controller shortage and outdated technology. Shutdowns set back efforts to hire, train and modernize.

The aviation industry and the people who work in it cannot continue to be used as political leverage.

Congress has the power to end this dysfunction once and for all and must use any legislative vehicle to accomplish this goal. The Aviation Funding Solvency Act and the Aviation Funding Stability Act would ensure that air traffic controllers and other safety personnel are paid during a shutdown. The Keep America Flying Act would provide the same protection for TSA officers.

We urge Congress to utilize any legislation moving through the process to add these provisions that would ensure the aviation system isn't subjected to another shutdown that jeopardizes safety and security.

Aeronautical Repair Station Association
Affordable Skies
Air Line Pilots Association
Air Medical Operators Association
Air Traffic Control Association
Airbus
Aircraft Electronics Association
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association
Airline Passenger Experience Association
Airlines for America
Airports Council International – North America
Allied Pilots Association
Alpha Eta Rho
American Association of Airport Executives
American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics
American Society of Travel Advisors
Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
Association of Air Medical Services
Association of Professional Flight Attendants
Association of Value Airlines
Aviation Technical Education Council
Cargo Airline Association
Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations
Experimental Aircraft Association
General Aviation Manufacturers Association
Global Business Travel Association
International Aircraft Dealers Association
International Air Transport Association
International Council of Air Shows
International Flight Services Association
National Air Carrier Association
National Air Traffic Controllers Association
National Air Transportation Association
National Association of State Aviation Officials
National Business Aviation Association
NetJets Association of Shared Aircraft Pilots
Professional Aviation Safety Specialists, AFL-CIO
Recreational Aviation Foundation
Regional Air Cargo Carriers Association
Regional Airline Association
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association

Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO
United States Parachute Association
United States Tour Operators Association
U.S. Contract Tower Association
U.S. Travel Association
US Helicopter Safety Team
Vertical Aviation International