



# NEWS

March 31, 2006

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NASAO ASKS CONGRESS TO “SAY NO” TO THE ADMINISTRATION’S 2007 BUDGET PROPOSAL

**SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND** – Meeting in Washington DC during their annual spring legislative conference, the Board of Directors of the National Association of State Aviation Officials announced its opposition to the administration’s 2007 aviation budget proposals. Many of NASAO’s members immediately began briefing their federal delegations on Capitol Hill, asking them to “say no” to the administration’s proposals. NASAO’s Chairman, Richard Turner of Vermont said, “We are respectfully asking Congress to keep the promises it made in VISION – 100. All of the states and thousands of airports across the nation will suffer if the administration is allowed to slash nearly a billion dollars out of the already authorized \$3.7 billion Airport Improvement Program.”

NASAO says that if the administration has its way with the national air transportation system:

- All primary airport grants will be cut in half
- All non-primary general aviation grants will be eliminated
- Larger airport minimum entitlements will be cut from \$1 million to \$650,000
- Essential Air Service will be cut from \$110 million to \$50 million
- The Small Community Air Service Development Program will be eliminated
- The Contract Tower Cost Share program will be eliminated
- FAA’s Facilities and Equipment budget will be cut by \$600 million
- The general aviation “set aside” will be cut from 20 percent of AIP to 18.5 percent

Henry Ogrodzinski, NASAO’s President and CEO, said, “With demand for air transportation already outpacing pre 9/11 levels, it is incomprehensible that the administration would cut, and in several cases eliminate, vital airport infrastructure investments and FAA programs that tie the nation’s transportation network together. We are very concerned that these proposed drastic cuts will damage our precious aviation infrastructure. Recognizing that at least 10 percent of our national economy is tied to aviation, as is our nation’s strength, security and sense of well being”; NASAO is strongly urging Congress to full fund the Airport Improvement Program at \$3.7 billion, the levels it has already authorized.

The National Association of State Aviation Officials is one of the most senior aviation organizations in the United States, predating even the Federal Aviation Administration’s predecessor, the Civil Aeronautics Authority. Since its founding in 1931 the association has represented the men and women, in state government aviation agencies, who serve the public interest in all 50 states, Guam and Puerto Rico. These highly skilled professionals are full partners with the federal government in the development and maintenance of the safest and most efficient aviation system in the world. They organize, promote, and fund a wide variety of aviation programs across the nation

The full text of NASAO’s 2006 national legislative agenda may be viewed on the association’s website: [www.NASAO.org](http://www.NASAO.org). For more information please call (301) 588-0587.

# # #

Alabama  
Alaska  
Arizona  
Arkansas  
California  
Colorado  
Connecticut  
Delaware  
Florida  
Georgia  
Guam  
Hawaii  
Idaho  
Illinois  
Indiana  
Iowa  
Kansas  
Kentucky  
Louisiana  
Maine  
Maryland  
Massachusetts  
Michigan  
Minnesota  
Mississippi  
Missouri  
Montana  
Nebraska  
Nevada  
New Hampshire  
New Jersey  
New Mexico  
New York  
North Carolina  
North Dakota  
Ohio  
Oklahoma  
Oregon  
Pennsylvania  
Puerto Rico  
Rhode Island  
South Carolina  
South Dakota  
Tennessee  
Texas  
Utah  
Vermont  
Virginia  
Washington  
West Virginia  
Wisconsin  
Wyoming