

Keys to the Capitol Monthly Update - December 2009

Monday, 14 December 2009

Dear AMFA Member, KTC hosted AMFA leadership at the company's K Street offices on October 13th. During the productive meeting there was a thorough review of the legislative one page document used on Capitol Hill. In addition, an overall strategy session was undertaken that laid the groundwork for the lobbying path forward. Starting just the following day, KTC began the process of meeting with pertinent Congressional offices in order to create the groundswell of support needed to eventually accomplish AMFA's legislative agenda. Specifically, KTC completed the following tasks since the October 13th meeting:

- Introduced AMFA leadership in private "one on one" meetings with Congresswoman Johnson and Congressman Smith.
- Worked tirelessly on a letter draft from Congresswoman Johnson to the Transportation Committee Chairman expressing AMFA's legislative needs.
- Worked with Congressman Smith's office to find a date and format for a tour of AMFA's SeaTac operations.
- Finetuned the legislative one page document.
- Tracked multiple pieces of pertinent aviation legislation.
- Held numerous other meetings with Committee staff and other Congressional Members' offices.

Legislation KTC continued to meet with various members of Congress and committee staff to discuss outstanding legislation. In addition, KTC legislative tracking system continued to monitor AMFA specific bills. FAA Funding Extension Bill (HR 4217) - NEW BILL The US House of Representatives voted to extend the excruciating limbo that is the Federal Aviation Administration budget when it extended current funding through to the end of March with HR 4217. The industry has been waiting for a new FAA reauthorization bill since 2007 and the current continuing resolution expires at the end of the month. Fiscal Year 2010 Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act, Part II was approved by voice vote. A similar measure is expected in the Senate shortly. Earlier this year the two houses proposed their own versions of reauthorization keeping them at two years pending the Obama Administration presenting its own bill. However, all legislation save economic rescue packages and health care have been shoved to the back burner in what is increasingly looking like a one-or-two annual legislative agenda for Congress. The House managed to pass its version introduced in February last May, the Senate, which introduced its reauthorization legislation last summer, did not. HR 4217 provides USD2 billion in contract authority for the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) through the end of March. This USD2 billion will enable airports to move forward with important safety and capacity projects. When annualized, this level of AIP funding equals USD4 billion, which is consistent with both the House and Senate FAA reauthorization bills, and the FY 2010 Concurrent Budget Resolution. The bill also authorizes appropriations for FAA Operations, Facilities and Equipment (F&E), and Research, Engineering, and Development (RE&D) programs, consistent with average funding levels of the FY 2010 House-approved appropriations bill and the Senate-approved appropriations bill. HR 4217 also extends the aviation excise taxes through to 31-Mar-2010. These taxes are necessary to support the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, which funds a substantial portion of the FAA's budget. With an uncommitted cash balance of just USD251 million at the end of FY 2009, any lapse in the aviation taxes could put the solvency of the Trust Fund at risk. In addition to extending the aviation taxes, HR 4217 extends the FAA's authority to make expenditures from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund through to March 2010. FAA Reauthorization Act (HR 915/S1451)

Passed the House. Currently awaiting floor debate in the Senate. KTC has taken meetings with Senator Hutchison (Texas) and Senator Cantwell (Washington) to discuss our positions. More, in-depth meetings are in the works to garner support. KTC will be leveraging the letter to come from Congresswoman Johnson to gain a stronghold on negotiations when the bills eventually go to conference. Appropriations for Department of Transportation, HUD & Related Agencies (HR 3288)

Conference Report just issued. KTC analyzing the lengthy document for effect of funding allocations. Appropriations for Department of Homeland Security (H2892/S1298)

Passed by both the House and Senate. Signed by the President. KTC analyzing the bill for the effect of funding allocations. Transportation Safety Administration Authorization Act (HR 2200)

Sent to Transportation Committee and awaiting Committee vote. KTC monitoring closely to ensure synergies with AMFA's legislative agenda.

Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009 (HR 3371)

Passed out of the House under suspension of the rules in late October. Currently sitting in the Senate Transportation Committee awaiting vote. KTC monitoring closely to ensure training requirements don't encroach into AMFA's arena.

Stakeholder Meetings

KTC has continued meeting with AMFA's stakeholders to promote its interests and issues. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Subcommittee on Aviation

- o Once again met with Subcommittee staff and continued the discussion on AMFA's legislative issues.

- o Staff continue to ensure us that AMFA's interests will be included when bill is passed.

- o Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

- o Opened discussions with the FAA and meeting planned for October 2009 Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson (TX -

30th)

- o Held in person meeting with AMFA leadership in Congresswoman's DC office.
- o Received complete support of the Congresswoman for AMFA's issues.
- o Congresswoman tasked her staff with helping to draft a letter from her to the Transportation Chairman, asking that all our needs be addressed in any final legislation. Congressman Harry Mitchell (AZ - 5th)
- o Continued dialogue with Congressman Mitchell to get him out to Sky Harbor airport for an official tour of AMFA facilities. Congressman Adam Smith (WA - 9th)
- o Held in person meeting with AMFA leadership in Congressman's DC office.
- o Subsequently contacted by Congressman's office and told that he would like to arrange a tour of the SeaTac facility early in 2010.
- o Held conference call with Congressman's staffer and AMFA leadership to help determine format for tour and discuss possible dates. Senator Maria Cantwell (WA)
- o Held first meeting with Senator Cantwell's office to brief her on AMFA's legislative needs.
- o Senator Cantwell sits on the Senate Transportation Committee making her very powerful in carrying our agenda.
- o Working to set up the next meeting to continue the discussion. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (TX)
- o Held first meeting with Senator Hutchison's office to brief her on AMFA's legislative needs.
- o Senator Hutchison sits on the Senate Transportation Committee making her very powerful in carrying our agenda.
- o Working to set up the next meeting to continue the discussion. House Transportation Committee
- o Held meeting to discuss what language may work best in Congresswoman Johnson's letter that is being drafted to the Chairman.