

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 11, 2013

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator, Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta:

We are writing to request that you review the decision to close the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Aircraft Registry office during the present federal government shutdown. We understand that during previous lapses in appropriated funding, this office has remained open.

The FAA appears to be handling the current shutdown in a different manner from previous shutdowns, inflicting unnecessary hardship on aviation industries in our country. The closure of the Aircraft Registry office has a serious impact on American aircraft manufacturers and related industries, because it prevents the delivery of newly manufactured aircraft. While we understand that many important federal activities come to a halt during a funding lapse, activities funded by laws other than annual appropriations act – including the Aircraft Registry office, which is partially funded through fees – may be permitted to continue operations in some cases.

The Anti-deficiency Act provides Department of Transportation (DOT) with the necessary authority to staff the Registry because it helps provide vital protection to human life and property. Maintaining this database is necessary for the U.S. to fulfill its ongoing international legal obligations under the Chicago Convention and the Convention on International Interests in Mobile Equipment relating to the registration of aircrafts. The Registry is also important to national security. Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, triennial registration was mandated for all aircrafts to help the government identify and mitigate potential terrorist threats. As long as the Registry remains closed, this important anti-terrorism tool will be unavailable to law enforcement officers.

As you know, the United States is the global leader in the highly competitive business of aircraft manufacturing and related industries. Please review the decision to close the Aircraft Registry office, and provide an explanation for this decision as quickly as possible. If, during your review of this decision, you find that the registry is necessary to meet our international legal obligations; has been deemed an essential government function in the past when a lapse of appropriated funds has occurred; or is now considered to be vital to our national security interest, including the protection to human life and property, then we ask that the FAA immediately reopen the registry. Further, we expect you will maximize the use of any legal authorities you may have to mitigate the impacts of the shutdown on the aviation industry and other FAA operations. We look forward to your prompt response.



Sam Graves
Member of Congress


Sincerely,



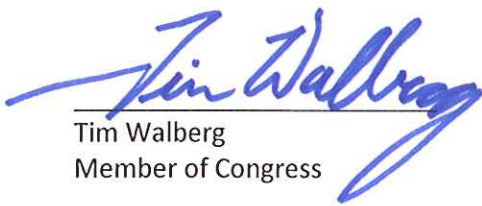
John Barrow
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress



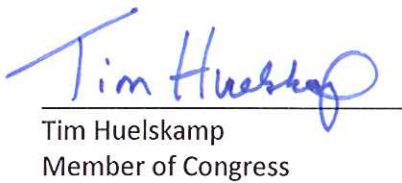
Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Tim Walberg
Member of Congress



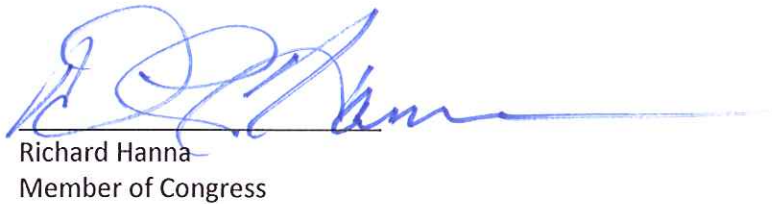
Lynn Westmoreland
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Tim Huelskamp
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Blake Farenthold
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Richard Hanna
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Trey Radel
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Dan Benishek
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Howard Coble
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Chris Stewart
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Collin Peterson
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Tom Cole
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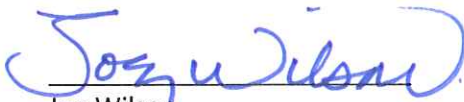
Reed Ribble
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Todd Rokita
Member of Congress



Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress



Joe Wilson
Member of Congress



Jim Nolan, Rick
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



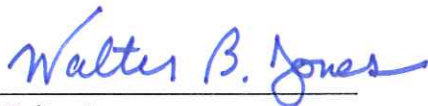
Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



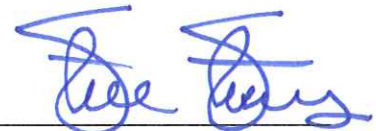
Bill Flores
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Aaron Schock
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Walter Jones
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Steve Stivers
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Mike Pompeo
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Tim Griffin
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Billy Long
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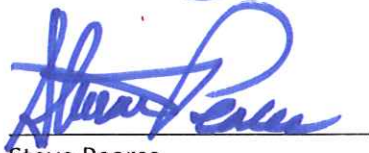
James Lankford
Member of Congress



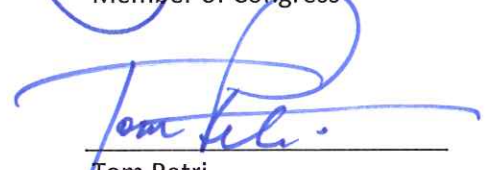
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



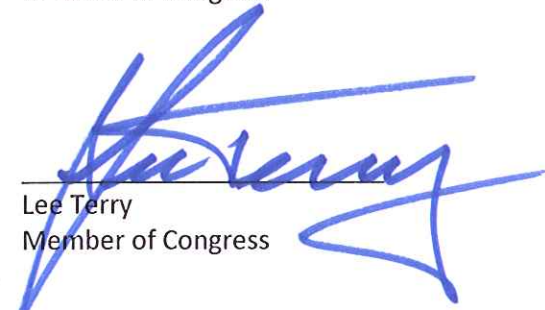
David McKinley
Member of Congress



Steve Pearce
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Tom Petri
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Lee Terry
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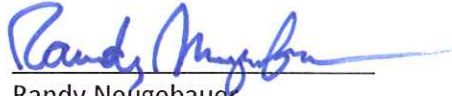
Jack Kingston
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Kevin Yoder
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Kurt Schrader
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Randy Neugebauer
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Jim Matheson
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Rodney Davis
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