



## ALASKA AIR CARRIERS ASSOCIATION

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10 April 2013

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Once again President Obama's budget proposal has included \$100-per-flight-segment user fees for both commercial and general aviation, in spite of both Senate and House opposition. The Alaska Air Carriers Association joins NATA, NBAA, AEA, AOPA, EAA, GAMA, HAI, NASAO, and ICAS\* in continuing to adamantly oppose user fees.

Aviation already contributes financially via a per-gallon fuel charge, federal excise taxes, and general tax revenues. Through the years this process has been studied by both the Senate and House, and has been found to be the most efficient and practical means of revenue collection for aviation. A user fee system will be:

**UNSAFE:** Per-use charges will result in cost controls that can have an adverse impact on aviation safety, as pilots lose proficiency to avoid increased costs of operation.

**UNFAIR:** Alaskan residents rely most heavily on aviation transportation, and our residents would proportionately carry the largest burden from this type of federal fundraising. Although 95% of a flight is in uncontrolled airspace, small businesses would have to pay \$200 for short flights because they depart from and return to a controlled airport.

**UNCONTROLLED:** We feel the current system, under Congressional control, is most fair to the American people, who can appeal to their congressional delegation for representation. A user-fee system would be outside of Congressional control.

**EXPENSIVE:** A per-flight tax will impose a significant new administrative burden on operators and necessitate the creation of a new federal collection bureaucracy. Cost of the collection system itself would escalate the user fees needed to pay for the system.

**ECONOMICALLY HARMFUL:** Foreign countries that have imposed per-flight charges on all aviation, have decimated general and commercial aviation.

Please do all that you can to remove user fees from consideration.

Sincerely,

C. Joy Journey, AACAA Executive Director

\* National Air Transportation Association, National Business Aviation Association, Aircraft Electronics Association, Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association, Experimental Aircraft Association, the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, Helicopter Association International, National Association of State Aviation Officials, and the International Council of Air Shows.

*Existing to foster and support a stable commercial aviation industry founded upon the principles of safety, professionalism and longevity*

Established in 1966, AACAA is a statewide organization representing over 170 members. Our members meet the needs of rural Alaskans and the traveling public by providing scheduled commuter travel, on-demand air charter, emergency medical evacuation, flight seeing, pilot training, aircraft maintenance, parts sales, fuel sales, storage, rental, and airline servicing.