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### December 20, 2019

#### Airlines for America attacks Florida’s dedicated aviation fuel tax – Again!

Senator Joe Gruters (R-23, Sarasota) recently filed SB 1192 - Tax on Aviation Fuel, that will repeal the aviation fuel tax. No House version is currently filed.

This is yet another assault on the Florida Aviation Fuel tax. The last time the airlines and State Legislature reduced this tax was as recent as 2018. That year, the state adopted aviation work program dedicated $239 million to support airport infrastructure projects - approximately $33 million came from the aviation fuel tax.

The 2018 aviation fuel tax reduction has only been in place since July 1st of 2019 - the actual impact of the reduction from 46.09 per gallon to 44.27 per gallon for small operators and 42.85 for airlines is not yet known. FL aviation Fuel Tax dollars are used for airport infrastructure improvements and equate to JOBS and economic development in our communities. A 2018 national survey completed by the Airports Council International-NA/American Association of Airport Executives showed that Florida has a need for $7 Billion in aviation infrastructure over the next 5 years.

**Here’s a few more important points:**

- Aviation infrastructure has one of the best Returns on Investment in the state, $1.72 per dollar spent. At the same time, it creates jobs – Florida’s aviation industry supports 1.4 million jobs. Overall, aviation generates $175 billion in total economic impact.
- The Florida Aviation Fuel Tax is a small cost to airlines, but the benefit to airports is multiplied by the fact that state dollars are used to match local and federal dollars.
- You and I pay 41.99 in taxes for every gallon of gas we put in our car, compared with just 42.85 per gallon paid for by airlines. This harmful legislation would allow multibillion-dollar companies to pay ZERO tax on their gas. That is tantamount to corporate welfare for large corporations – most of which are not based in Florida.

#### Despite their report of collecting record bag fees (untaxed by the way) AAA wants to eliminate Florida’s aviation fuel tax.

**Airlines collect record bag fees in Q3**

US passenger airlines collected a record $1.5 billion in bag fees during the third quarter of this year, DOT reported.

“For most of us, Christmas comes only once a year, but for the airlines, bag fees mean that every day of the year they get to open a new present from the traveling public,” said AAAE President and CEO Todd Hauptli. “Congress should finally approve an adjustment to the PFC cap so that Santa and his reindeer aren’t the only ones who don’t have to worry about where to land this holiday season.”

So far in 2019, the airlines have collected more than $4.3 billion in bag fees, putting them close to topping the record $4.9 billion in baggage fees collected in 2018. The carriers took in another $739 million in reservation change and cancellation fees in the third quarter of this year.

At the same time, the federal cap on PFCs has not been adjusted since 2000. Due to increased construction costs since then, a $4.50 PFC is worth just over $2 today, which hampers infrastructure development opportunities at airports around the country, AAAE stated.

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**Stay tuned** get engaged and participate in the State Affairs committee calls that will begin bi-weekly after the start of the FL legislative session which begins on January 14, 2020.
Construction update: Orlando airport’s $2B+ south terminal expansion

Aircraft arriving and departing Orlando International Airport have one of the best views of the ongoing construction of the new south terminal. The $2 billion-plus facility, scheduled to open by late 2021, is one of the largest ongoing projects in Orlando and will have huge economic impacts once operational. The expansion adds another 19 gates to the airport with the ability to accommodate at least 24 aircraft, depending on size.

The new expansion will help MCO better serve its nearly 50 million annual passengers, many of whom are part of the overall 75 million visitors who come to the region and generate more than $75.2 billion in local economic impact.

The south terminal is part of a larger investment at the airport that includes the Intermodal Terminal Facility — which will connect to the new south terminal — and eventually will house connections to the Virgin Trains USA line from South Florida and, potentially, a connection to commuter rail SunRail. Tapping into more visitation overseas brings huge returns for Central Florida. Overseas travelers on average spend $1,000 per person per trip, which translates into billions of dollars in local economic impact.

TPA increases contract amount by $4.2M for new technology upgrades

(Source: BusinessJournal.com/tampabay)

Tampa International Airport is gearing up for more technology improvements. When the airport first started working with Tampa-based Audio Visual Innovations Inc. in 2017, the contract was for LCD flat screens, cameras and SMART interactive boards. Thursday, the Hillsborough Aviation Authority board members unanimously approved increasing a contract amount from $3.75 million to $7.95 million.

The additional amount is due to several successful proof of concepts, business requests, industry trends, and an update of the technology plan for the main terminal after a project review, according to airport documents. With the additional $4.2 million, Audio Visual Innovations Inc. will deliver on seven new projects, including:

- Event space video wall upgrade
- Shuttle lobby information displays
- Meet-and-greet sign replacement
- Ticket counter modernization
- Temporary Suite B conference rooms
- Replacing displays on baggage belt tips with improved real-time data display
- Consolidating display support

Save the date for DeLand Showcase 2020

The DeLand Sport Aviation Showcase (DSAS) has revealed the dates for the 2020 event: November 12-14.

Based at the DeLand Municipal Airport (KDED) in Florida, the 2020 event will be the fifth show for the showcase.

According to organizers, the 2019 event surpassed expectations, with 26 new vendors and exhibitors, and a 20% increase in attendance.
A growing Florida hub, Gainesville Regional Airport (GNV) has broken ground on its passenger terminal expansion and improvement project. It is expected to take up to 23 months to complete.

The project, which will cost in the region of $16M, will include the renovation and expansion of existing restrooms, the wiring of existing seating to charge portable devices, a new glass TSA partition wall to better accommodate a second screening lane and provide a more pleasant environment. The roof is also being replaced over the existing building and a second food and beverage area is being added. More efficient LED lighting as well as a children’s play area and outdoor pet relief area are also part of the airport’s master plan.

“This project is paid for by a combination of state and federal grants, along with passenger facility charges, or PFCs collected by our airlines,” said Allan Penksa, GNV’s CEO. “Most importantly, there is no local tax involved. It is the second of four phases of terminal investment, and it won’t be very long before we get going on these final phases, adding two new passenger boarding bridges to connect to this expansion, a new outbound baggage screening/handling system and additional airline operations space to better accommodate existing and future carriers.”

The expansion is the latest in several milestones reached by the busy North Central Florida airport. In the last year the airport has added nonstop service to Dallas-Fort Worth, a second screening lane and TSA Pre check, along with increased parking capacity. In addition, the airlines are adding capacity to existing flights by using larger aircraft. By the end of October 2019, year-to-date traffic at GNV was close to surpassing its all-time record of 476,396 passengers in 2018.

Grace Horvath, Gainesville Alachua County Regional Airport Authority (GACRAA) chairwoman added that the community is truly responding to the airport’s enhanced service. “We are resonating with more and more people, who are discovering how uncomplicated and stress-free, and yes, how economical flying from GNV can be.” The majority of construction improvements in the existing terminal will take place outside business hours, so interruptions to flight operations and passenger experience are expected to be minimal.
Where the magic happens

EAA Chapter 229 bears a strong resemblance to many of its peer chapters. The membership is overwhelmingly male and old.

As I sit on the verge of turning 61 years old, it concerns me that I am one of the younger members of the group. Attendance at gatherings is low enough that meetings are only held during the colder weather months when Snowbirds move south to mix in with the natives. Even then, the hangar is never full. If a dozen members show up at the same time, it’s a big deal.

Seven miles away from EAA Chapter 229’s hangar/workshop is the local public high school. Inside that school building sit more than 150 students who are taking an aerospace course that will eventually lead to the completion of their private pilot ground school requirements. Some want to fly, some want to turn wrenches, some want to become engineers who design the aircraft of the future, and some want to do some combination of two or more of those things.

It doesn’t take a rocket surgeon to see the irony of the situation. One group wants very much to find new, younger members who might revitalize the organization. The other is made up of young people who seek a means of getting through the chain-link fences, the barbed wire, and the Do Not Enter signs, to begin their careers in aviation.

[Read more…]
**New poll reveals high hopes — and high fears — of drones**

Those who attended the world’s largest conference on drones in Amsterdam the first week of December 2019 heard that only a small majority of Americans view drones favorably, while a strong majority have serious safety concerns about them. However, Americans overwhelmingly expect drones to begin home deliveries in the next five to ten years.

[Read more…]

**AROUND THE NATION**

**House passes FY 2020 appropriations packages**

The House recently passed two legislative packages that incorporate all 12 of the annual appropriations bills for FY 2020, sending the measures to the Senate just days ahead of a Dec. 20 deadline to avoid a government shutdown.

The pair of FY 2020 appropriations packages includes funding for key airport priorities. The DOT section includes $3.35 billion in “traditional” AIP funding and an additional $400 million in supplemental discretionary funding for infrastructure grants at airports of all sizes. It also includes $170 million for the FAA Contract Tower and Cost-Share programs, a $2 million increase from the current level.

The DHS section includes $46.3 million for the TSA law enforcement officer (LEO) reimbursement program and $83.5 million for agency staffing of exit lanes, rejecting the administration’s proposal to shift those responsibilities to airport operators. It also provides funding for 320 computed tomography (CT) units and increases funding to hire additional Transportation Security Officers (TSOs).

The Senate is expected to consider the FY 2020 appropriations packages this week before federal funding expires at midnight on Friday, Dec. 20.

**Approximately $44M in competitive grant funding available**

The Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Clean Diesel National Grants program is soliciting applications nationwide for projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions and exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated as poor air quality areas. If interested, please visit EPA’s website at the link below for eligibility information, instructions for submitting applications, and a full list of important dates. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, February 26, 2020, at 11:59 p.m. (ET). Eligible U.S. entities are:

- Regional, state, local or tribal agencies/consortia or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality; and
- Nonprofit organizations or institutions that represent or provide pollution reduction or educational services to persons or organizations that own or operate diesel fleets or have the promotion of transportation or air quality as their principal purpose.

School districts, municipalities, metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs), cities and counties are all eligible entities to the extent that they fall within the definition above.

[Click Here for More Information]

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**Welcome NEW Member!!**

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**Airlines predict 47.5 million flyers during winter holiday season**

Airlines for America projects that 47.5 million passengers will fly on U.S. airlines during the winter holiday travel season between Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019, and Sunday, Jan. 5, 2020, the group said.

A4A projected an average of 2.6 million passengers will fly each day over the holidays, with daily volumes ranging from 2.2 million to 3 million passengers. That is an increase of 3 percent from the comparable period a year ago. Carriers have added 884 daily flights to accommodate the 72,000 additional passengers each day.

The busiest days, according to A4A, are expected to be Friday, Dec. 20; Saturday, Dec. 21; Thursday, Dec. 26; and Friday, Dec. 27. The lightest travel days are predicted to be Tuesday, Dec. 24 (Christmas Eve); Wednesday, Dec. 25 (Christmas Day); and Tuesday, Dec. 31 (New Year’s Eve).

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**Senate clears DOD bill that rejects controversial PFAS proposal**

The Senate yesterday passed a final defense authorization bill that rejects a proposal that would have required the EPA to designate chemicals in firefighting foam as hazardous materials under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA). Senators voted 86-8 to adopt the defense bill conference report and send it to the White House for the president’s signature.

The House-passed version of the defense bill (H.R. 2500) included a controversial proposal that would have required EPA to designate all per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) as hazardous materials within one year. The Senate-passed version of the measure did not include a similar provision. House and Senate negotiators did not include the CERCLA provision in the final version of the bill.

AAAE urged lawmakers to reject the CERCLA language, which could have created liability issues for airports since they are required by federal regulation to use firefighting foam that contains PFAS. AAAE President and CEO Todd Hauptli sent letters to conferees and other key lawmakers expressing strong opposition to the CERCLA proposal.

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**AIRPORT MEMBERS IN THE NEWS**

Daytona Beach International Airport executives Karen Feaster, Erik Treudt and Dan Blake have been awarded the distinction of accredited airport executive (A.A.E.) by the American Association of Airport Executives. Feaster is the airport’s deputy director, Treudt is director of projects and maintenance, and Blake is director of airport operations.

To qualify for the accreditation, they completed a 180-item multiple-choice examination; a writing requirement; and a final interview to demonstrate knowledge of airport management, business administration and general transportation economics.

“This achievement attests to their ability to meet these stringent requirements and their experience in managing a public airport,” said Cyrus Callum, director of Orlando Executive Airport and general aviation chair of the association’s board of examiners. By fulfilling all the requirements, Feaster, Treudt and Blake join a select group of individuals who have earned the designation in the six-plus decades of the accreditation program’s existence. Fewer than 10% of the association’s members are active accredited airport executives.

I’m very proud of the dedication Karen, Erik and Dan put into the accreditation process,” said Airport Director Rick Karl. “Because of their leadership and their new accreditation, passengers at Daytona Beach International Airport will be even better served knowing the leadership here has demonstrated their ability to handle the responsibilities of airport management.”

**Congratulations Karen, Erik and Dan!**
BROWARD COUNTY
FLORIDA

Position: Construction Project Manager
Salary: $71,493.97 - $114,104.02 Annually
Closing: Continuous

General Description
The Broward County Aviation Department, which manages the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport (FLL) and North Perry Airport (HWO - a general aviation facility), is seeking a motivated and experienced professional for the position of Construction Project Manager. This is advanced professional and administrative work with responsibilities in the management of Airport projects for the County. Responsibilities include providing direction and administration of Capital Improvement projects through management of design consultant and contractor contracts consistent with the policies of the Director of Airport Development. It includes planning and prioritizing work, assisting with negotiations of contracts, change orders or amendments, reviewing the work of consultants, tracking the progress of construction work, and other assigned duties. Emphasis of the work is on management of contract documents for engineering consultants and contractors engaged in the design and construction of a variety of complex county structures and related project.

Incumbents exercise independent judgment in the application of the principles and practices of planning, design, construction and administration of a variety of construction projects. Assignments usually are received in the form of broad instructions or general program objectives. Supervision may be exercised over professional architects, engineers, sub-professional assistants, construction, inspection, maintenance or related clerical operations.

BROWARD COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER AND PROVIDER OF SERVICES

APPLICATIONS MAY BE FILED ONLINE AT: http://www.broward.org/careers

Position: Deputy Director Airport Finance & Admin
Salary: $31.36 - $72.01 Hourly
Closing: January 10, 2020

Essential Job Duties
This is responsible managerial and supervisory work responsible for management and oversight of the financial and administrative functions of the Aviation Department including accounting, operating and capital budgeting, capital improvement program funding, debt management, rate setting, human resources and payroll, purchasing and procurement, asset management, financial, statistical and regulatory reporting, and internal controls, procedures, rules and regulations. The incumbent exercises considerable independent judgment and a thorough working knowledge of regulations, laws and requirements that correlate to administering the financial and administrative functions of a commercial service airport. Work is performed under the general direction of the Director of Aviation. Work is reviewed through conferences, reports, observations, and by results obtained and is subject to periodic internal and external audit.

Minimum Training & Experience
Possession of a bachelor’s degree in accounting, finance, business or public administration, aviation management, or a related field with six years of professional financial, budgeting or accounting experience, three years of which shall be in a supervisory capacity. A master's degree in accounting, finance, or a related field or possession of a certificate as a Certified Public Accountant, Certified Internal Auditor or a Certified Management Accountant may be substituted for one year of the required experience.

Job Specifications
For the complete job specification, listing major job functions and duties for this job classification, go to http://www.talgov.com/employment/hr-job-descriptions.aspx