

Dear Members of Congress,

We write in opposition to the labor-management relations provisions in the Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization (AIRR) Act of 2016. If enacted, this proposal would place immediate, severe limits on any opportunity for reform and reorganization of America's air traffic control system.

The AIRR Act, championed by Chairman Bill Shuster, would transfer the FAA to a quasi-private "corporation," removes federal strike prohibitions for air traffic controllers, and also contains provisions for binding arbitration in labor disputes. This combination is a prescription for runaway costs and less stable American skyways.

Specific troubling provisions in Shuster's bill include:

- Incumbent union at FAA carries over to a new hybrid role representing public sector workers remaining at FAA and private sector workers at the new corporation. (Sec. 90705)
- Wages at the private corporation set by the union, though without the federal salary cap that exists for its government workers, and corporation directed to withhold workers' union dues. (Sec. 90705)
- Employees transitioning from federal service to the corporation retain federal health insurance, retirement benefits, and "official time" collectively bargained under the public-sector structure at the FAA. (Sec. 90702, Sec. 90705)
- Union has seats on the governing board of directors and advisory boards under the new corporation. (Sec. 90315, Sec. 90316)
- Binding arbitration would place the fate of the new corporation in the hands of outside mediators who may lack business experience and know little to nothing about air traffic control. (Sec. 90707)
- As private sector employees, the federal statutes prohibiting strikes by government employees and the required oath for those employees not to strike will not apply, thus leaving strikes as an unfair labor practice. (Sec. 90703)

Simply put, the protections employed by former President Reagan during the illegal air traffic controller strike in 1981 will no longer be available.

We urge the House to scrap Shuster's dangerous union giveaway.

Sincerely,

Heritage Action for America  
Center for Independent Employees  
Diana Furchtgott-Roth, Senior Fellow, Manhattan Institute  
F. Vincent Vernuccio, Director of Labor Policy, Mackinac Center for Public Policy