

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

November 6, 2025

The Honorable Bryan Bedford
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Bedford,

We write to you as members of the Colorado congressional delegation committed to supporting the safety and security needs of major airports and dedicated air traffic controllers (ATCs) who have worked without pay during the ongoing federal government shutdown. We write in support of the request from Denver International Airport (DEN) that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) issue guidance or emergency waivers of applicable law to allow airports to use temporary financing tools to immediately pay impacted ATCs, with a process for federal reimbursement once the federal government reopens. DEN submitted this request yesterday, in response to Secretary Duffy's announcement of an upcoming 10% reduction in flights at major U.S. airports.

Thousands of ATCs nationwide work long hours daily, experience fatigue, and overcome chronic staffing shortfalls in order to maintain the highest levels of reliability and safety of the National Airspace System (NAS). DEN has provided a commonsense proposal that provides a temporary lifeline to the very people ensuring the safety of our skies.

Given the urgency of this situation, which now directly affects airports in across the country, we urge your immediate approval of this request and also ask for your firm commitment that the FAA will work with DEN—and any other airport sponsor that takes this necessary action—to ensure a full and prompt reimbursement for these costs upon the enactment of a continuing resolution or appropriations bill. These local partners should not be penalized for stepping up to protect federal operations and crucial public safety during this lapse in federal funding.

We share a mutual interest in the safety and stability of the NAS. Authorizing this local solution is a vital step towards ensuring that public safety is maintained. We look forward to your prompt and favorable response.

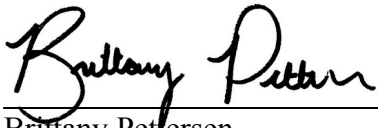
Sincerely,



John Hickenlooper
United States Senator



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator



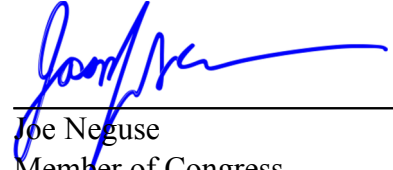
Brittany Pettersen
Member of Congress



Diana DeGette
Member of Congress



Jason Crow
Member of Congress



Joe Neguse
Member of Congress