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Mixed results seen in passage of FAA Reauthorization Bill

President Barack Obama signed bill into law today

SAN DIEGO – February 14, 2012 – Today President Barack Obama signed into law the long-delayed Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization bill. The legislation authorizes federal aviation programs through Fiscal Year 2015.

Thella F. Bowens, Chair of Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA), expressed mixed reaction to this news.

"Passage of a multi-year FAA Reauthorization bill provides stable funding for the aviation community, helps airports conduct long-term planning, and should prevent another FAA shutdown," said Bowens. "Unfortunately, reduced funding for programs such as the Airport Improvement Program will restrict resources for important airport improvement projects and impact the ability of airports to create more jobs."

"We look forward to beginning a dialogue and working with Congressional leaders and the Administration on ways to increase local control for airport funding," continued Bowens. "Our goals include decreasing airport reliance on shrinking federal resources, providing permanent Alternative Minimum Tax relief for airport projects, and stabilizing the Airport and Airways Trust Fund."

On behalf of ACI-NA members, Bowens thanked ACI-NA staff and Congressional members and staff, who worked long hours to reconcile remaining differences and allow for the bill's passage.

Bowens served as a member of the Secretary of Transportation's 2010 The Future of Aviation Advisory Committee and has served as President/CEO of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority since 2002.

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