

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

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July 1, 2021

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Chair  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-305, The Capitol  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair DeLauro,

As the Chairwoman of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, I am writing to encourage your continued support of our nation's science, technology, and innovation enterprise. The Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies appropriations account provides funding for agencies that fall under the purview of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. The sections below address the Administrations FY2022 Budget Request. I respectfully request that you consider the following funding for these agencies and specific programs within the agencies.

**Surface Transportation**

The surface transportation research, development and demonstration programs at the Department of Transportation (DOT) are critical to making transportation safer, more equitable, more efficient, and more sustainable. We urge your support for research programs at DOT in the FY 2022 enacted appropriation by funding the research provisions of the Investing in a New Vision for the Environment and Surface Transportation in America Act, or INVEST in America Act, that passed the House of Representatives on July 1, 2021. This bill includes significant research investments in resilience and vehicle analytics, as well as demonstration projects to study multimodal transportation systems and the role that autonomous trucking may play in the future movement of freight. In particular, we request support for Sec. 5116 of the INVEST in America Act, which would create an Advanced Transportation Research and Innovation Program to support high-risk research to accelerate the development of advanced transportation

technologies. This program shares many of the goals envisioned by the Administration in their proposal for a new ARPA-Infrastructure, or ARPA-I at DOT.

### **FAA Research, Engineering and Development**

The FY 2022 request proposes an increase of \$60.5 million or 23.4 percent to the FY 2021 enacted appropriations for FAA's Research, Engineering, and Development (RE&D) activities. I am pleased that the FAA budget request proposes funding for "a limited two year pandemic-related research effort to inform a system risk management analysis of infectious disease transmission in flight, and to establish a foundation for developing a cabin safety pandemic playbook for future use." Such work is important in light of the devastating impacts of the pandemic to our aviation sector.

Regarding specific elements of the FAA RE&D request, I note, for your attention, a significant cut of nearly \$9 million or 88 percent to System Planning and Resource Management, which "leads the planning, coordination, development, presentation, and review of the FAA's research and development (R&D) portfolio"; a proposed cut of \$2.4 million or 22 percent to Continued Airworthiness, which "supports the FAA's aviation safety oversight responsibility to ensure that aircraft maintain operational safety, as they age, or as new technologies are introduced," including generating data to support new standards for such technologies as urban air mobility, advanced air mobility, and unmanned aircraft systems; a significant reduction of 88 percent to Advanced Materials and Structural Safety, which "conducts research to support FAA safety and regulatory activities in the technical areas of composites and other advanced materials, and their impact on flight safety"; and a proposed cut of \$3 million or 50 percent to the Air Ground Integration Human Factors account in light of the importance of human factors within the flight deck and national airspace system operations as well as the growing implementation of automation systems. Because the budget request provides limited information on the rationale for such cuts, I urge you to seek such supporting information and consider restoring the funds, where appropriate.

In addition, I urge you to consider increasing funding for IT and cybersecurity, which is flat-funded in the FY 2022 proposal, in light of increasing cybersecurity threats and incidents such as the SolarWinds hack. I also request that you consider increases to the Environment and Energy account, which would be essentially flat-funded in the FY 2022 request despite producing "data and knowledge that are the scientific and technical foundation for the development of cost-effective measures to mitigate the environmental impacts of aviation noise and emissions". The FY 2022 request articulates that "Environmental impacts, especially aircraft noise, are often the number one cause of opposition to airport capacity expansion and airspace redesign".

Finally, \$50 million of the Administration's proposed increase to the RE&D account would be to support a new climate initiative, ARPA-C. While I am supportive of increased investment and coordination of federal resources in addressing the climate crisis, in the absence of further explanation by the Administration, I do not think the ARPA model is appropriate for the type of research this RE&D funding would support.

### **FAA Office of Commercial Space Transportation**

I support the President's request of \$32.47 million for the FAA's Office of Commercial Space Transportation (AST). This increase of about \$5 million over the FY 2021 enacted appropriation

would fund additional workforce to support FAA AST's important regulatory and oversight role of the commercial space launch and reentry industry, among other functions. As the pace of commercial space launch and reentry activities increases, it is essential that FAA AST have the workforce needed to maintain the Office's safety functions, including the safe integration of commercial space launch and reentry activities into the national airspace system.

Sincerely,



Eddie Bernice Johnson  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Cc:

The Honorable Kay Granger  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Frank Lucas  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

The Honorable David Price  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations