

Why I voted Yes on H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2012 conference report.

I voted Yes on H.R. 658, the FAA Reauthorization and Reform Act of 2012 conference report.

This legislation represents a bipartisan agreement between the House and Senate to reauthorize Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) operations and programs for four years.

The previous law, Vision 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, expired in September 2007 and the FAA has operated under an unprecedented 23 extensions of that law until now because an agreement for a full reauthorization was never reached. After passing the House-version of the FAA Reauthorization in September 2011, I am proud that this Congress accomplished in less than a year what the two previous Congresses failed to complete over four years.

The long-term reauthorization will reduce federal spending, streamline federal aviation programs, improve aviation safety, and end uncertainty over federal policy governing the air transport industry. It would also expedite and improve the implementation of the Next Generation, satellite-based air traffic control system, known as NextGen. This system will replace the antiquated, radar-based air traffic control system currently in use, which will result in increased safety, reduced fuel consumption, and greater efficiency.

H.R. 658 passed by a voice of 248-169, and is expected to be approved by the Senate and signed into law next week.