



RAPID CITY REGIONAL AIRPORT

www.rapairport.org

July 28, 2011

Mayor Sam Kooiker
City of Rapid City
300 6th Street
Rapid City, SD 57701

RE: Partial FAA Shutdown

Mayor,

I've received a number of calls on the impact of the partial FAA shutdown on travelers and projects at Rapid City Regional Airport. As you may be aware, the most recent continuing resolution of the FAA funding bill expired at midnight last Friday prompting a partial shutdown and the furlough of some FAA employees.

This partial shutdown does not include safety critical areas of the FAA such as air traffic control. Therefore, it will not have a direct impact on the traveling public.

However, the shutdown does close all of the Area District Offices (ADO) including the Bismarck, ND office that serves Rapid City Regional. The ADO is charged with the financial management of the FAA grant funding programs for capital improvement projects, as well as conducting airspace impact reviews of construction projects in and around airports.

Due to the shutdown, the FAA has issued a stop work order on some projects around the nation – none of which are at Rapid City Regional Airport. Currently, we have a number of projects that are either receiving or anticipating grant funding and those projects will continue and are not a risk at this time. Of course, we will continue to seek further guidance as the situation develops.

In addition to the FAA ADO offices shutting down, the legal authority to collect aviation taxes, which funds the FAA and capital improvement grants, also ran out with the expiration of the funding bill. Industry experts are estimating the FAA could potentially lose \$200 million per week. Senators Rockefeller and Cantwell, respective chairs of the Senate Commerce Committee and Senate Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security Subcommittee, have written letters to the Air Transportation Association "urging the nation's airlines to put all of the profits that they are making from the lapse of the aviation taxes into an escrow account so that they can be transferred back into the Airport Airway Trust Fund when Congress reinstates the taxes."

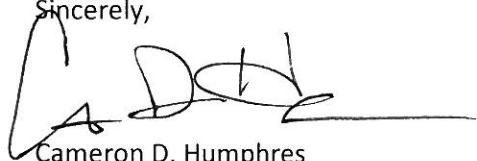
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The bottom line is we need to keep a watchful eye on developments as they occur. In the meantime, the best thing we can do is to urge Congress to get an FAA authorization bill or continuing resolution signed and get the FAA back up and running.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. D. Humphres', written over a horizontal line.

Cameron D. Humphres
Executive Director