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“Legislative Update”

Administration’s FY2011 Budget Proposes to Freeze Size of EAS Program!



Today, President Obama released the Administration’s Budget for Fiscal Year 2011. The budget includes the Administration’s requests for the Essential Air Service (EAS) program. The amounts requested in the budget are not binding; however, Congress will use it as they frame how much each committee gets to spend on appropriations.

In the FY2011 budget, the Administration requests a total of **\$182 million** for the **EAS** program. This includes the mandatory \$50 million derived from overflight fees and \$132 million from the Airport and Airway Trust Fund. This is \$18 million less than the \$200 million appropriated for the program in FY2010.

Additionally, the Administration requests the size of the EAS program to be capped. The budget proposed that the program be limited to those communities in the contiguous 48 states who are receiving EAS subsidy as of October 1, 2010. Simply put, no new communities in the lower 48 states would be allowed to enter the program after October 1, 2010.