

Maurice A. Parker  
President/Executive Director  
exdir@regionalaviationpartners.org

Deborah Shane  
Associate Legislative Director  
dshane@regionalaviationpartners.org



Phoenix Office  
410 N. 44<sup>th</sup> St., Suite 700  
Phoenix, AZ 85008  
(602) 685-4112

The Voice of Small Community Air Service in Rural America  
<http://www.regionalaviationpartners.org>

June 25, 2008

# “Legislative Update”



## HOUSE PASSES HR 6327 – EXTENDING FAA’S AUTHORIZATION THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

On Tuesday, June 24, 2008, the House passed HR 6327, extending the FAA authorization through September 30, 2008. As you recall, in February, Congress passed into law PL 110-190, extending FAA authorization to June 30.

A debate erupted Tuesday afternoon on HR 6327 over an \$8 billion appropriations for the Highway Trust Fund and was settled by removing the language from the bill. With the removal of the \$8 billion language, the bill passed 422-0 and was sent to the Senate.

On the Senate side, a 6 month extension of the FAA authorization was objected to and never passed on Monday, June 23. It is now up to the Senate to consider HR 6237. It is unlikely that the Senate will consider the extension of FAA authorization today as they will be considering bills on Housing Reform/Foreclosure and Electronic Surveillance.

With the looming deadline of June 30 and the July 4th recess of Congress, Congress has only days to approve the extension.

As for the FY09 FAA Reauthorization (HR 2881), the opinion on Capitol Hill is that the prospects of the FY09 FAA Reauthorization (HR 2881) being completed before the end of this fiscal year are fading.

### **FY09 APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE**

Congressman David Obey (D-WI-7), Chairman of the House Appropriation Committee, announced today that the House will spend most of July considering FY09 appropriations

bills. The committee will begin markups of the **Transportation-Housing**, Interior-Environmental and Legislative Branch bills when the House returns from recess on Monday, **July 7**.

## **SEN. SCHUMER INTRODUCES CONGESTION PRICING BILL**

On June 18, 2008, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) introduced S 3150, the Access to Air Travel Act. The Access to Air Travel Act would prohibit the Secretary of Transportation (or the Administrator of the FAA) from implementing federally imposed auctions and congestion pricing.

The bill was then referred to Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation.