



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

January 18, 2013

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Section 909 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Interagency Research on Aviation and the Environment, authorizes the Administrator to maintain a research program to address the effects of aviation activities on the environment, in coordination with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and consultation with other relevant agencies. This provision additionally directed the Administration to complete and to submit to Congress a plan to carry out this research that includes research objectives, current research, proposed tasks, milestones, and a 5-year budgetary outlook.

The enclosed research plans, the 2010 National Aeronautics Research and Development Plan and the 2012 National Aviation Research Plan, provide our response to this provision.

The National Aeronautics Research and Development Plan lays out high-priority national aeronautics research and development challenges, goals, and objectives that guide the conduct of U.S. aeronautics research, including environmental research. This multi-year research and development plan, updated biennially, is developed by the Aeronautics Science and Technology Subcommittee (ASTS) of the Committee on Technology of the National Science and Technology Council under the Office of Science and Technology Policy. ASTS is the multi-federal agency subcommittee with representation from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), NASA, U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), and National Science Foundation.

The National Aviation Research Plan is a more detailed FAA plan that integrates the FAA's research and development programs into a portfolio that addresses near-, mid-, and far-term research to address national priorities. It includes goals and targets, current research, planned activities, milestones, and a 5-year budget plan. Chapter 4 and Appendix B provide information on FAA research and development partnerships with NASA and other Government agencies, as well as with academia and industry.

The FAA and NASA have been working very closely in scientific and technical areas over the last several years to advance our understanding of the environmental effects of aviation and to develop effective mitigation solutions. The FAA and NASA, in coordination with DOD, are continuing to mature aircraft (both airframe and engine) technologies for near-term use and to develop the next generation of aircraft technologies. In addition, FAA and NASA are working in collaboration with USDA, EPA, DOE, and National Institute of Standards and Technology of the DOC to advance alternative jet fuels that could significantly reduce aviation emissions which impact both air quality and climate change.

We appreciate the recognition by Congress of the important contribution of our research to the future vitality of U.S. aviation. The FAA's strategic Destination 2025 expresses our goal to develop and operate an aviation system that reduces aviation's environmental and energy impacts to a level that does not constrain growth and is a model for sustainability.

We have sent identical letters to Chairman Smith, Senator Thune, and Congresswoman Johnson.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael P. Huerta', with a circled number '1' to the right.

Michael P. Huerta
Administrator

Enclosures



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January 18, 2013

The Honorable John Thune
Committee on Commerce, Science,
and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Thune:

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Michael P. Huerta
Administrator

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January 18, 2013

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
Committee on Science, Space and Technology
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

Section 909 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Interagency Research on Aviation and the Environment, authorizes the Administrator to maintain a research program to address the effects of aviation activities on the environment, in coordination with NASA and consultation with other relevant agencies. This provision additionally directed the Administration to complete and to submit to Congress a plan to carry out this research that includes research objectives, current research, proposed tasks, milestones, and a 5-year budgetary outlook.

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We have sent identical letters to Chairmen Rockefeller and Smith and Senator Hutchison.

Sincerely,

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Michael P. Huerta
Administrator

Enclosures



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800 Independence Ave., S.W.
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January 18, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space,
and Technology
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Michael P. Huerta
Administrator

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