September 12, 2017

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

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

Please accept this joint letter from the American Bus Association (ABA), the National Limousine Association (NLA), the Near Airport Parking Industry Trade Association (NAPITA) and the Taxicab, Limousine Paratransit Association (TLPA). As both the House and Senate continue to work through the FAA Reauthorization process, we hope that you will consider language that would provide clarity and a level playing field when it comes to landside transportation at our nation’s airports.

Ground transportation has become an increasingly important topic given the growing number of stakeholders seeking access to the airport’s limited curb space to provide efficient transportation alternatives for travelers. Our associations strongly believe it is in the best interests of the traveling public and the airports seeking to manage their limited curb space that transportation policy be formulated with the realization that private enterprises must have the ability to (1) compete on a level playing field free from undue and discriminatory regulatory burdens and (2) continue to grow and participate in private investment.

While landside matters are just as important to the overall aviation experience for the traveling public, they have received much less attention at the federal level than their airside counterpart. We believe it is time for that to change. We are requesting a new direction that we consider very reasonable but also impactful with the ability to build meaningful and implementable action items. Our proposal is to create a working group led by the Department of Transportation’s Undersecretary for Policy whose mission would be to study the effectiveness of achieving those goals already set forth in Section 47101 of the U.S. Code. As you know, those goals include encouraging intermodal connections on airport properties to serve passengers efficiently as well as promoting economic development, economic productivity and global competitiveness. This working group would be comprised of all impacted stakeholders, including our associations’ members, with a vested interest in creating sustainable and intelligible ground transportation policy.

We have had the opportunity to meet with many members of the Committee, as well as professional staff, to discuss these concepts. We look forward to continuing productive dialogues on this matter of national importance and would welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you and your staff in more detail.

Sincerely,

American Bus Association
National Limousine Association
Near Airport Parking Industry Trade Association
Taxicab, Limousine, Paratransit Association