

STATEMENT OF

David Z. Plavin

President

Airports Council International - North America

NOMINATION TO THE FEDERAL AVIATION MANAGEMENT

ADVISORY COUNCIL

Before the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee

September 14, 2000

Statement of David Z. Plavin
President, Airports Council International - North America
Nominee to the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council
Presented to the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee
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Good morning Mr. Chairman,

I am David Z. Plavin, President of Airports Council International - North America. (ACI-NA). It is a privilege to be here today as a nominee to the Federal Aviation Management Advisory Council. I have served as president of ACI-NA since January of 1996. ACI-NA provides a wide range of member services and it represents 150 governing bodies that own and operate some 450 airports -- from general aviation and small commercial service airports to the largest airports in the world -- with a multitude of interests and priorities, throughout the United States, Canada, and the US Virgin Islands. ACI-NA also represents the interests of more than 375 corporate members who serve the airport community. ACI-NA is the largest of six regions of the Airports Council International based in Geneva, Switzerland.

From June 1989 to October 1995, I was the Director of Aviation for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey where I was responsible for the management and development of John F. Kennedy International, Newark International, LaGuardia, Teterboro Airport and two Manhattan heliports. Together, these facilities constitute the world's leading aviation hub.

I also served as the Executive Director from 1981 through 1984 at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which was responsible for bridges, commuter trains, buses, and tunnels for the entire New York Metropolitan area.

A significant portion of my life has been dedicated to developing and improving the nation's air transportation system. Today, that system is the central element of our domestic and global competitiveness. Airports are "economic engines" that generate and support local economic development by providing complete transportation services, stimulating business activity and investment, attracting and facilitating travel and tourism and creating more jobs. And air transportation remains the quickest way of

moving high-value goods through our transportation system, as well as moving millions of passengers across the country and the world.

While we have built a highly successful system of air transportation in this country, we can, and must, do more. As we look to the future, we face significant challenges in aviation. We expect one billion passengers to use our air transportation system annually by the end of the decade. Imagine the equivalent of the entire population of the United States added to an already, crowded, already congested, already delayed system. We need to look systemically at air transportation to determine how to accommodate this increased demand. We need more capacity, better technology and greater resources, while recognizing that safety must remain our top priority.

If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed for this position, it would be my honor to work with you Mr. Chairman, other members of this committee and other Council members to build an air transportation system that meets the challenges of the future and is second to none.

I would be happy to respond to any questions you or other members of the committee may have.

Thank you.