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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEB SITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

September 20, 2013

The Honorable Duane Woerth  
Ambassador to the U.S. Mission to ICAO  
U.S. Mission to ICAO  
999 University Street, Suite 14.10  
Montreal, Quebec H3C 5J9  
Canada

Ms. Julie Oettinger  
Assistant Administrator, Policy,  
International Affairs and Environment  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, Southwest  
Washington, DC 20591

Mr. Todd Stern  
Special Envoy for Climate Change  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, Northwest  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Ambassador Woerth, Ms. Oettinger, and Mr. Stern:

I write to thank you for the work you have done to date to oppose the misguided European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS). I was pleased with the EU's decision last year to suspend collection of this illegal tax. I urge you to continue your efforts to protect our nation's air carriers and passengers at the 38<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

As you know, a worldwide aviation coalition, that includes our nation's air carriers, is committed to achieving a 1.5 percent average annual improvement in carbon and fuel efficiency through 2020, and carbon-neutral growth from 2020 onwards. This commitment, along with the aviation industry's track record of improving its fuel efficiency and reducing its environmental footprint, should be encouraged, and we should remain committed to ensuring that outside influences or taxes do not hamper the industry's ability to meet these targets or the need to remain profitable.

These complementary goals also underpinned my bipartisan bill, the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme Prohibition Act of 2011, which was enacted last year. This legislation laid out two basic directives. First, the U.S. Government should "hold operators of civil aircraft of the United States harmless from the emissions trading scheme" of the EU. Second, U.S. officials should "use their authority to conduct international negotiations" not only to ensure operators are held harmless, but also "to pursue a worldwide approach to address aircraft emissions."

To that end, as you evaluate and negotiate the draft Assembly resolution on environmental protection, I urge you to remember both directives. Like many, I have always believed that ICAO was the most appropriate venue to tackle global aviation emissions concerns and the upcoming Assembly meeting is an important opportunity to make strides towards worldwide

ELLEN DONESKI, STAFF DIRECTOR

BRIAN M. HENDRICKS, REPUBLICAN STAFF DIRECTOR AND GENERAL COUNSEL

consensus. I am hopeful a positive outcome can occur at this meeting without undercutting or jeopardizing the U.S. position. I look forward to working with you on this matter in the future.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Thune", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

JOHN THUNE  
Ranking Member