

RACCA's Policy Principles



AVIATION SAFETY

- **Support** continued investment in safety technologies and innovation to enhance situational awareness and collision avoidance.
- **Urge** Congress and FAA to expedite Airborne Collision Avoidance System – X (ACAS-X) implementation through timely guidance and funding, and emphasize collaboration with FAA facilities (e.g., SJU Combined Control) to improve safety and efficiency in rural areas.
- **Address** rural ATC communication gaps that threaten consistent oversight and situational awareness, especially at lower altitudes.
- **Encourage** continued implementation of SMS in Part 135 operations using risk-based, scalable approaches.



AVIATION SECURITY

- **Reaffirm** post-9/11 reforms like DCA Access Standard Security Program (DASSP) continue to protect general and business aviation access.
- **Promote** cutting edge, new technologies in the areas of autonomy, hybrid electric small cargo aircraft and electric aircraft, all of which are in various stages of the U.S. Government certification.
- **Engage** with TSA to understand the security implications of these emerging technologies and to craft appropriate security programs.



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

- **Inform** that workforce shortages persist across pilots, maintenance technicians, and air traffic controllers.
- **Foster** continued collaboration at the federal/state/local level to advance workforce training and development programs that inspire and support careers in the aviation industry.
- **Promote** mental health awareness, access to support services, and defined regulatory pathways to ensure a resilient, safe, and sustainable aviation workforce.
- **Raise** federal student loan caps and expand GI Bill eligibility to all Part 141 flight schools.
- **Urge** reform of Designated Pilot Examiner (DPE) policies to include experienced Part 135 instructors and improve certification access.



AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL (ATC) REFORM *(RACCA aligned with industry on Modern Skies Coalition)*

- **Advance** efforts and funding to support the Brand New Air Traffic System (BNATS) initiative underway at the FAA, aligned with the Modern Skies Coalition.
- **Report** from operators that ATC infrastructure gaps exist, especially in Alaska and rural areas, including unreliable Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS), Remote Communications Outlets (RCOs), and Ground Communications Outlets (GCOs).
- **Support** sustained funding for the Don Young Alaska Aviation Safety Initiative (DYAASI), authorized at \$25 million annually, and related investments in rural aviation safety infrastructure.
- **Recognize** the recent federal investments in weather reporting and communications infrastructure, including funding to expand weather reporting stations across Alaska, and encourage continued focus on these safety-critical systems.
- **Eliminate** FAA delays in IAP design and approval; members urge use of approved third-party providers to cut costs and time.
- **Enable** direct ground-to-ground ATC communication to support completion of NAS Voice (VOIP).

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES & ADVANCED AVIATION ENTRANTS (AAE)

- **Improve** FAA efforts for cross-agency coordination for certifying new technologies, particularly for remotely piloted and autonomous aircraft.
- **Emphasize** the need for early collaboration among Aircraft Certification (AIR), Flight Standards (AFS), and the Air Traffic Organization (ATO) to streamline technology approvals.
- **Welcome** the Innovation Steering Committee and Airspace Modernization Office created in the FAA reauthorization and urge full implementation.
- **Encourage** activation and operationalization of the Unmanned and Autonomous Flight Advisory Committee, which remains authorized but not yet functional.



TARIFFS/TRADE IMPACTS ON REGIONAL AVIATION AND SUPPLY CHAINS

- **Ensure** predictability and stability through sound trade policies that recognizes global supply chains and fosters a competitive and sustainable domestic aviation industry.
- **Highlight** local economic impacts of tariffs on commercial aircraft and components, including the loss of maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) and aircraft conversion contracts.
- **Underscore** that aircraft manufacturing is inherently global, with no aircraft being entirely U.S.-built due to international sourcing of components.
- **Reinforce** that global supply chains are critical to the U.S. industry and regional air cargo's ability to support local and international commerce and trade.



CONNECTIVITY

- **Enhance** connectivity by recognizing the vital role regional air cargo carriers play in sustaining dependable transportation routes that connect communities of all sizes to critical services, economic growth, and the broader national supply chain.
- **Expand** access and opportunity by enabling the flow of goods like medicine, mail, and e-commerce, regional cargo strengthens economic and social ties across the country.
- **Highlight** the critical role RACCA members serve as the connective thread between America's remote regions and the broader world, ensuring no community is left behind.