



Setting the Record Straight on Unneeded Airport Tax Hikes

Our nation's crumbling roads and bridges badly need repair. Unfortunately, some in Congress want to use this challenge as cover to raise a hidden tax you pay simply for walking through an airport. They're proposing a completely unnecessary tax hike on air travel that would do nothing to help our real infrastructure needs, and you need to know the facts about the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC).

The last thing airport executives need is a blank check to hit travelers with more tax hikes. There is not a single airport project that cannot be funded with existing resources. With billions of dollars already pouring into our nation's airports, raising taxes would be bad for travelers, bad for families and bad for the American economy. Raising the PFC is a tax hike on flyers – a tax hike that isn't needed. It's really that simple.

Record Travel = Record Cash Grab for Airports

U.S. airports reported an all-time high \$32 billion in revenues in 2018, largely driven by record travel volumes. Passengers already pay \$3.6 billion in PFC taxes – an all-time high. In fact, not only have airport revenues increased 47 percent since 2000, PFC revenues have also doubled over that time, growing at twice the rate of inflation. With more people flying than ever before, it is clear airports won't be hurting for revenue.

Fuzzy Airport Math

U.S. airports are hardly strapped for cash. Yet airport executives regularly cite inflated and misleading statistics in an effort to convince Congress to hand over more money. What they aren't telling you is that their so called "capital needs" include a wide range of projects that are already being funded. Facts are stubborn things, and airports still cannot point to a single project that is not moving forward due to funding. Airports want more money, but they don't need more money.

Airport Construction is Booming Across the Country

More than \$200 billion has been invested at airports across the country since 2008 – all without a tax hike. Visit any major airport today and you're likely to see major renovations already underway – projects courtesy of you, the taxpayer. From terminal and facility upgrades and renovations to new runways and other amenities, construction projects are happening so fast that airports can't point to a single project that isn't moving forward due to funding.

Passengers are Already Spending Record Amounts Supporting Airports

Consumers already pay a staggering \$6.9 billion in airport taxes. On top of that, every time you walk into an airport, you spend more money that contributes to airport development. From parking to shops, to food and beverage and other retail offerings, airports are already reaching into the wallets of travelers at every turn. Travelers shouldn't be left holding the bag for tax hikes airports don't need.

The Airport Trust Fund is Sitting on a \$7 Billion Surplus

Most people don't realize it, but there is a dedicated Airport and Airway Trust Fund. This additional pot of money – which can be spent to pay for modernization projects instead of taxing passengers – is running an enormous surplus of over \$7 billion, with more money coming in every day. By 2030, the Congressional Budget Office predicts there will be an unobligated balance of \$30 billion.

Airports are Flush with Cash

With all the cash airports have, why do they want to tax travelers more? The reality is these are high times for airports. Airports can't spend their considerable resources fast enough. In fact, they have \$16 billion in unrestricted cash on hand. They have also diverted \$5.4 billion – money paid by passengers that could have been used for infrastructure – to other purposes over the past 10 years.

We Have Real Infrastructure Needs that a PFC Increase Won't Help

While airport officials would love more money to play with, there's no reason to raise taxes especially when airports can't name a single project that isn't getting done because of a lack of resources. Congress should set its sights on our real infrastructure needs – like crumbling roads and bridges – rather than digging deeper into Americans' pockets to pad the coffers of well-funded airports.

Higher Taxes Won't Fly with Consumers

Not only is an increase in airport taxes unnecessary, it is also overwhelmingly unpopular among voters. Eighty percent of participants in a [recent poll](#) oppose increasing the cost of flying and feel that their money is being diverted from our true infrastructure needs.