

National Center for the Advancement of Aviation

Senator Inhofe / Senator Duckworth

In the more than 100 years since Wilbur and Orville Wright conducted their historic flights at Kitty Hawk, our nation has seen aviation in the United States grow, powered by the individual passions of pilots, aviators, and countless others. To continue this legacy and meet the demands and challenges of today and tomorrow, we need a national, independent forum to facilitate collaboration and cooperation between all sectors of aviation and aerospace stakeholders and related partners to coordinate, promote, and support the future of aviation and ensure that the United States remains a global aviation and aerospace leader.

The National Center for the Advancement of Aviation would focus on four key areas:

Aviation and Aerospace STEM Curriculum:

A national center would support aviation and aerospace education efforts and provide resources to aviation curriculum developers so educators at all levels have the tools and training to ensure their success in the classroom. A national center would ensure that our next generation of pilots, aviation maintenance technicians, and other aviation professionals are educated by highly qualified, passionate professionals and prepared with the knowledge and tools to pursue life fulfilling careers in aviation and aerospace.

Workforce Development:

A national center would serve as a collaborative forum to leverage expertise from all sectors of the aviation and aerospace industry to develop and deploy a workforce of pilots, aerospace engineers, unmanned aircraft system operators, aviation maintenance technicians, or other aviation maintenance professionals needed in the coming decades. A national center would empower the spread of existing youth-oriented aviation and aerospace programs and proven training models to stakeholders across the nation to create the next generation of aviation professionals.

Economic and Safety Data and Research Sharing:

A national aviation center would serve as a central repository of economic data, safety data, and research efforts related to the aviation and aerospace sectors, allowing a comprehensive perspective of public aviation and aerospace information that would improve safety for all stakeholders. Existing data and research efforts can be fragmented, isolated, and face unnecessary hurdles or artificial constraints due to a lack of awareness. A national center would amplify across the aviation and aerospace community and other interested stakeholders existing research conducted and inform the direction of future research.

Forum for Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration:

A national center would be a forum for symposiums and conferences to facilitate cross-disciplinary collaboration across the aviation and aerospace community and other interested stakeholders to consider the near-term and long-term future of aviation and aerospace generally, whether that be new aviation and aerospace materials, products, procedures, and/or practices. A national center would empower the engagement between and among all engaged stakeholders to pioneer future advancements for the aviation and aerospace community.

Our aviation and aerospace industry supports more than 11 million jobs and contributes more than \$1.6 trillion per year to the national economy. With a sector so large, we know the demands and challenges of today and tomorrow, cannot be addressed by a single stakeholder. Now is the time for all aviation and aerospace stakeholders to come together to launch aviation into the future in a collaborative, stakeholder driven environment where the overarching goal is promoting a safe and vibrant national aviation system.

For additional information or to cosponsor this legislation, please reach out to Dan Hillenbrand in Senator Inhofe's office at Dan_Hillenbrand@inhofe.senate.gov or Mark Copeland in Senator Duckworth's office at Mark_Copeland@duckworth.senate.gov.