

## **Congress Passes Highly Anticipated FAA Bill**

Yesterday, the Senate passed a \$63.4 billion bill to fund the Federal Aviation Administration's operations and programs through September 30, 2015. This long-awaited bill guiding aviation spending and policy was overwhelmingly supported by the Senate in a 75-20 vote. The House had previously approved this measure on February 2, 2012 and the bill is now on the President Obama's desk for signature.

Needless to say, the aviation industry is relieved at the passage of the Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act. Since the last bill expired in 2007, the FAA has experienced 23 short-term extensions and a partial shut-down that devastated the aviation industry last summer.

Today, the Senate Finance Committee will tackle the revenue portion of MAP-21, a two-year transportation reauthorization bill in the Senate. DBIA looks forward to the Senate and House moving swiftly in getting a surface transportation bill finished in the same bipartisan fashion as the aforementioned FAA bill.