Dear Speaker Ryan, Leader McConnell, Leader Pelosi, and Leader Reid:

With the 114th Congress coming to a close, the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) and the leaders of our member companies would like to express our strong support for efforts to pass appropriations legislation providing full year FY 17 funding for the federal government.

The aerospace and defense industry, including over 320 AIA members and our supply chain, provides 1.7 million American jobs and 13% of the nation’s manufacturing employment. Aerospace and defense is the manufacturing sector’s leading net exporter, generating a record trade surplus of $81 billion in 2015. It is arguably the most successful manufacturing sector in our country and contributes significantly to our nation’s economic growth, stability, and national security.

This record of success developed during a time of great uncertainty and instability in both the marketplace and with regard to annual government funding. The work we do supports one of the most innovative aspects of our economy, including maintaining our military prowess, the development of a dynamic aerospace sector and furthering space exploration. Few things could provide a greater sense of stability for our industry going forward than completing final FY 17 appropriations bills.

AIA and its member companies are grateful for your leadership which enabled completion of a multiyear reauthorization of the ExIm Bank last fall. As part of completing any FY 17 appropriations legislation, we ask you to restore the full functionality of the Export Import Bank (ExIm) by allowing the Bank to attain a quorum on its board. We strongly urge you to pass the ExIm Bank quorum provisions found in both the House and Senate versions of the FY 17 State and Foreign Operations appropriations measures.

This language would restore the Bank’s ability to authorize proposed transactions over $10 million and, as a result, quickly clear a backlog of more than 30 export sales with a total value of more than $20 billion. Failure to act on a quorum for ExIm delays opportunities for hundreds of small and medium sized businesses in the aerospace and defense supply chain as well as the millions of people they employ.

In conclusion we ask that you support U.S. economic stability and national security by completing FY 17 appropriations bills restoring the quorum to the ExIm Bank Board.

Sincerely,

David F. Melcher  
Lieutenant General, USA (Ret.)  
President & CEO  
Aerospace Industries Association

Marilyn Hewson  
Chairman, AIA  
Chairman, President, & CEO  
Lockheed Martin Corporation

Dennis A. Muilenburg  
Vice Chairman, AIA  
Chairman, President & CEO  
The Boeing Company
Douglas McCrossen
President, CEO
CPI Aerostructures, Inc.

Tim Ellis
Vice President
CSC

Michael J. McGuire
President
celantrica corp.

Gary T. Lemoine
Managing Director
The Lumus Group
SAIC and LUMUS

Brian Curtin
President & CEO
FLEX

Thomas M. Mastro
Chemtronics
Mastertech Controls, Inc.

Ralph Brown
Vice President
Washington Operations
Triumph Group

Scott Wood
Sr. Director, Business Development
PCC

Andrew S. Techel
CFO
MOOG Inc

Jim O'Leary
Information Services Group
Partner

Sandeep Sethi
Sr. Director, HCL America

Russell
President
GEN ATS/1

Aerospace Industries Association of America, Inc.
1000 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 1700 | Arlington VA 22209-3928 | 703.358.1000 | www.asa-aerospace.org