



January 23, 2012 – There are big decisions being made in Washington that will have lasting effects on GA airports nationwide.

**FAA Reauthorization:** On Friday, January 21, House Speaker John Boehner (R-OH) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV) finally reached a deal on changes to the Railway Labor Act that will hopefully lead to final enactment of a FAA Reauthorization bill in the coming weeks. The current extension - the 22nd extension - expires next week (January 31). The House is scheduled to vote tomorrow, January 24, on one final short-term extension as leaders hammer out the final bill. For a copy of GAAC's FAA Reauthorization advocacy letter, go to <http://www.gaairportcoalition.org/documents/2011.05.19FAAReauthConf%201.pdf>

**ASSET:** The FAA is finalizing its report on GA airports which will put GA airports in one of five categories. The final report is expected in March. GAAC continues to work with FAA to ensure this categorization process is as accurate and beneficial to GA airports as possible. For a copy of GAAC's White Paper to FAA, go to <http://www.gaairportcoalition.org/documents/2011.10.05ASSETWhitePaper.pdf> and follow up/feedback after October 17 webinar, go to

**Budget:** President Obama will release his FY 2013 Budget next month and the GA community is alarmed. Credible rumors are swirling that the Budget will include a recommendation to eliminate funding for the Federal Contract Tower program for GA airports. Additionally, the Budget may include a proposal to implement a \$100 user fee on all flights - commercial and GA. Each of these proposals would be devastating to GA airports, and we encourage all of our members to contact their Congressional delegation to oppose such measures. GAAC is sending a letter in opposition to these proposals to Congress this week and it will be posted on our website. For more on GAAC's user fee advocacy, go to

**FAA to Establish GA Center of Excellence:** Earlier this month, the FAA announced that it is establishing an Air Transportation Center of Excellence for General Aviation to advance GA technology. Colleges and universities are asked to submit proposals to become members by March 5. To learn more about this initiative, go to [www.faa.gov/go/coe](http://www.faa.gov/go/coe).