

1. POLICY POSITION

WAYPORTS

Background

Wayports legislation recently was introduced in Congress to develop an integrated system of remote transfer airports capable of solving a significant percentage of America's airport and airspace congestion problems for the next century.

The legislation establishes a Wayport Development Commission chaired by the FAA Administrator and composed of persons with technical and operational experience and persons representing the aviation industry and local governments. The commission would propose a list of at least four (4) sites for Wayport facilities, develop design and cost criteria, and establish criteria for loans to Wayport authorities. A Wayport Revolving Loan Fund would be established to consist of appropriations from the unobligated balance in the Aviation Loan Fund and to consist of loan repayments. It is proposed that appropriations for fiscal years 1991 - 1993 not exceed \$1.5 billion annually for the Wayport Revolving Loan Fund.

The "super" airports would be constructed in rural and sparsely populated areas across the country where airspace is unused or underused and would serve a multi-state area. They would function largely as transfer points for passenger flights and air shipping operations, thus easing some of the pressure on major metropolitan airports.

Not only would Wayports be an economic boon to many rural, depressed areas of our nation, but they could result in substantial monetary savings to the airline industry and persons and businesses dependent on it. Land acquisition costs would be cheaper in these remote areas. The proposed modular format of the Wayports would result in cheaper architectural and design costs. Savings could also result from the alleviation of delays in passenger and shipping traffic.

Recommendation

The Southern Legislative Conference enthusiastically endorses appropriate studies to determine the feasibility of implementing the Wayports Concept.

Adopted by the Southern Legislative Conference July 19, 1989.
(Sponsor: Representative Charles W. Capps, Jr., Mississippi)

SO-89-PP1