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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-0301**

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WATER AND POWER

February 12, 2014

Darren Odegard  
Federal Aviation Administration  
1601 Lind Avenue, Southwest  
Renton, Washington 98057

Dear Mr. Odegard:

We write to commend the FAA's decision to move forward with the new control tower at Tucson International Airport under a competitive bidding process that does not impose a pre-arranged Project Labor Agreement (PLA). With the federal government facing severe budget shortfalls, avoiding waste and fraud in government contracts cannot be overstated.


We understand that the FAA's decision process included a public call for input from the construction community regarding the potential use of a PLA. In a community where less than three-percent of the construction workforce belongs to a union, the careful consideration of the specific needs of the project and the Tucson area workforce are highly appreciated.

While the nominal purpose of Project Labor Agreements is to supposedly structure relations between labor and contractors, in reality no such "structuring" is necessary or prudent, and their practical effect results in unnecessarily higher costs due to reduction of competition. Further, such PLAs circumvent cost management from the very managers who would ultimately be in charge of cost controls, efficiency, and labor quality. A study from the Beacon Hill Institute found that PLAs typically needlessly increase construction costs 12-18%.

As members of Congress we have a duty to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars—as does the FAA. A transparent competitive bidding process allows a quality general contractor to be selected while also ensuring fiscal prudence.

Again, we commend you for your decision and for your attention to the sensible protection of taxpayer funds on this project. We urge you to reject any effort to impose a wasteful PLA, during this time of a \$17 trillion national debt.

Sincerely,




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John McCain  
United States Senate




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Jeff Flake  
United States Senate



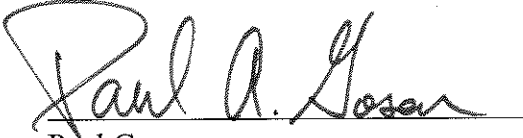
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Trent Franks  
United States House of Representatives



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Matt Salmon  
United States House of Representatives



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Paul Gosar  
United States House of Representatives



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David Schweikert  
United States House of Representatives