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| April 6, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |

**Heller Files Additional Priorities to Senate Aviation Bill***Includes Amendment Aiding Boost of International Tourism to Nevada***(Washington, DC)** – Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) filed three additional legislative priorities to the [*Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act of 2016*](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/9270731d-2db7-4c87-a2c3-b79f98bcdcef/Thune-Nelson%20Substitute%203464.pdf) (H.R.626). As a member of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security, Senator Heller has worked closely with Chairman John Thune (R-SD) on developing a long-term Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization bill over the past year. “From international tourism, to homeland security, to creating job opportunities for veterans, these amendments to the FAA bill ensure a variety of Nevada’s needs are addressed. The priorities outlined in these amendments will positively affect the state. As the debate on the FAA reauthorization bill continues to unfold, I’m hopeful we can build on the momentum of the previous successes already secured,” said **Senator Dean Heller.**

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| **Background Information on Senator Heller’s Filed Amendments:****Heller-Reid U.S. Customs and Border Protection Airport Staffing Amendment*** Given the need for improved airport security and traveler processing efficiency at participating airports, this amendment would allow ports of entry to enter into public-private partnerships with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to improve operations. Specifically, it would allow airports participating in the Port of Entry Partnership Pilot Program, known as the Donor 559 program, to privately finance:
	+ Salaries and expenses of up to five additional CBP officers;
	+ Salaries and expenses of CBP employees that support officers in performing law enforcement functions;
	+ costs related to the temporary placement or permanent relocation of officers; and
	+ Costs incurred by CBP to pay existing officers overtime.

**Heller’s Veterans Employment Amendment** * Given the new career opportunities that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may have in the field of Unmanned Aircraft System (UAS) technology, this amendment requires the FAA to assess whether any of these new occupations can be applied to the FAA’s Veterans’ Employment Program.
* As a member of the Senate Veterans’ Affairs Committee, Senator Heller wants to ensure veterans who have returned home from service have strong employment opportunities, especially given the skills they’ve obtained during service.

**Heller’s Amendment Improving Inter-Agency Communication to Protect the Homeland** * As our nation continues to combat terrorism, it is critical to ensure that the agencies and administrations tasked with securing our homeland are communicating adequately in the event of a terror attack overseas.
* That is why this amendment would require the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to develop inter-agency communication policies with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the relevant embassy if a terror attack occurs abroad.
* This communication will ensure that the FAA and DHS, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), have the information needed to anticipate and address the range of potential threats to our transportation system arising from a terror attack overseas.

**Heller Provisions Already Included in Committee Passed Bill:** * The Small Community Air Service Development Program provides small airports with additional resources to attract new airline routes, however, the law stipulates that only airports considered small hubs as of 1997 are eligible for the program. Sec. 3202(b) updates the law to ensure airports like Reno Tahoe International Airport, who are currently not eligible but are considered small hubs based off current air traffic, can compete for these resources. This affects eight other airports.
* Since Nevada is one of the six UAS test site locations, it will drive drone-related technological research and economic growth statewide. The bill includes [Senator Heller’s priorities](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=7F4A1158-C0BF-4D95-A10E-E1B21B721B4E) to provide Nevada’s [testing sites](http://diversifynevada.com/key-industries/aerospace-defense/uav) such as Reno-Stead Airport, Fallon Municipal Airport, Nellis Air Force Base, and the Boulder City Municipal Airport, with more autonomy and flexibility to partner with industry to test this emerging technology. This includes establishing annual research plans for test sites to contribute to authorizing beyond line of sight operations at these sites.
* Sec.1302 provides airports like McCarran International Airport the flexibility to use federal infrastructure dollars for construction of facilities that offer multiple modes of transportation (i.e. bus, rail, Uber, and taxis). This provision could improve tourist access and facilitate economic development opportunities in Nevada.
* Sec.2132 makes it clear that industries like mining can utilize UASs for inspections, which reduces risks to workers in underground facilities.

The following Heller amendments were adopted into the FAA Bill at the March 16th [Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/videos?ID=16D8FD5D-0DB5-4BEC-A323-48A6C4EBCD3C) on March 16, 2016:* Heller-Cantwell [UAS Carriage Amendment](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/videos?ID=16D8FD5D-0DB5-4BEC-A323-48A6C4EBCD3C) directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to establish a streamlined air carrier certification program tailored for unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) carrying property, like packages.

 * Klobuchar-Heller-Blumenthal Human Trafficking Amendment requires air carriers to provide training to flight attendants to combat human trafficking, including training with respect to common indicators of human trafficking and best practices for reporting suspected human trafficking to law enforcement officers. Heller’s strong history on combatting human trafficking can be found [HERE](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=26685325-b451-44f7-8ba0-ca99fa0b9977).
* The Schatz-Heller Tourism Amendment adds tourism stakeholders, like the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, the Reno-Sparks Convention and Visitors Authority, and the Elko Convention and Visitors Authority, to the Future Aviation Infrastructure and Financing Study provision in the bill.
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