

ROBERT W. POOLE, Jr.
Brief Biographical Summary

Robert Poole is Director of Transportation Policy and the Searle Freedom Trust Transportation Fellow at the Reason Foundation, a public policy think tank based in Los Angeles and Washington, DC.

He was among the first to propose the commercialization of the U.S. air traffic control system, and his work in this field has helped shape proposals for a U.S. ATC corporation. A version of his nonprofit corporation concept was implemented in Canada in 1996. He has advised the Office of the Secretary of Transportation, the White House Office of Policy Development, the National Performance Review, the National Economic Council, and the National Civil Aviation Review Commission on ATC commercialization. He is a member of the Air Traffic Control Association and of the GAO's National Aviation Studies Advisory Panel. In 2012-13 he was a member of the Business Roundtable task force on ATC reform, and in 2014-15 he was part of the Eno Center for Transportation working group on ATC reform.

Poole's Reason studies helped launch a national debate on airport privatization in the United States. He advised both the FAA and local officials during the 1989-90 controversy over the proposed privatization of Albany (NY) Airport. His policy research on this issue helped inspire the privatization of Indianapolis airport management under Mayor Steve Goldsmith and Congress's 1996 enactment of the current Airport Privatization Pilot Program.

In aviation security, Poole advised the White House and House Republican leaders on what became the Aviation & Transportation Security Act of 2001, enacted in response to the 9/11 attacks. He has authored a number of Reason policy studies on aviation security and is the author of a paper on risk-based aviation security for the OECD's International Transport Forum.

Poole has testified on airports, aviation security, and air traffic control on a number of occasions before House and Senate aviation and homeland security subcommittees, and he has spoken on these subjects before numerous conferences. He has also done consulting work on several airport privatization feasibility studies.

Poole also edits monthly Reason Foundation e-newsletters on airport and air traffic control policy issues. He received his B.S. and M.S. in mechanical engineering at MIT and did graduate work in operations research at NYU.