

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

December 5, 2025

THE HONORABLE SAM GRAVES

Chairman

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

1135 Longworth House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

THE HONORABLE RICK LARSEN

Ranking Member

House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

2163 Rayburn House Office Building

Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves and Ranking Member Larsen:

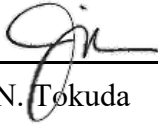
We respectfully request that H.R. 4246, the *Essential Air Service Reliability Act of 2025*, be considered in the upcoming markup in the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Rural and remote communities in Alaska, Hawai‘i, and across the country depend on the Essential Air Service (EAS) program as a lifeline. Yet recent events have underscored the vulnerability of these communities when EAS carriers lack adequate contingency plans. In Hawai‘i, the unexpected grounding of an entire fleet of aircraft in January 2025 left residents on neighbor islands stranded for extended periods of time with no alternative modes of transportation to access critical healthcare services. Similar risks exist in many rural regions where EAS provides the only reliable means of connecting residents to essential services that are otherwise inaccessible.

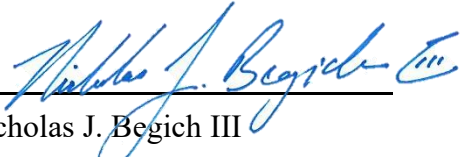
The bipartisan *Essential Air Service Reliability Act* addresses this urgent and ongoing challenge by requiring EAS carriers to include contingency plans for maintenance issues and other non-weather-related disruptions as part of their competitive applications. This bill would strengthen EAS reliability, enhance safety, and ensure that the EAS program fulfills its intended purpose of keeping rural communities connected. Timely action on this bill is essential to prevent future service outages that place vulnerable residents in our districts at risk.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and your continued leadership in strengthening our nation’s aviation system and protecting the connectivity of underserved communities. We and our staff, Will Cantrell (will.cantrell@mail.house.gov, ext 6-8911) and Keaton Whittaker (keaton.whittaker@mail.house.gov, ext 6-1107) stand ready to answer any questions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jill N. Tokuda
Member of Congress



Nicholas J. Begich III
Member of Congress