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**National Association Of Air Traffic Specialists**

[www.naats.org](http://www.naats.org)

SUBJECT: Victory for Aviation Safety

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Wheaton, MD — The National Association of Air Traffic Specialists (NAATS) applauds the 238 members of Congress that passed an amendment to prevent the closure of 58 Flight Service Stations across the nation. This small victory is shared by the employees and the communities that would have been affected.

NAATS would like to express their extreme gratitude to Congressman Sanders and his Legislative Director Warren Gunnels for their insight into the issue and the coordination to make this happen. We would also like to thank the other 237 house members that voted for the amendment and our Union Brothers and Sisters from PASS, the AFL and the Transportation-Trades Department for their support.

Kate Breen, President of the National Association of Air Traffic Specialists is thrilled this tri-partisan effort had such a good turn out. “These elected officials should be commended for seeing the other side of this contracting out issue. This is about safety and keeping the pilots and their passengers safe, it should not be about a major corporation making a profit.” Lockheed Martin won the contract on February 1, 2005 and with a contract this size Congress should have a voice. The contract award was for \$1.9 Billion over 10 years and this amendment would give Congress a chance to examine the issue fully through a hearing or a Government Accountability Office (GAO) study.

Breen also said “It’s about the employees as well, over 1,000 employees will lose their pensions if Lockheed Martin takes over on October 4, 2005. The promise of jobs by Lockheed Martin for most employees is for a short period of time to close one of the 38 facilities. The FAA is also very proud of the personnel policies they have set up for employees, what they don’t tell you is that these policies to allow people to bid on jobs have been used for less than 10 percent of the affected employees.”

The Senate will take up the appropriations bill after the 4<sup>th</sup> of July recess, NAATS hopes the Senators will vote to keep these jobs within the Government for safety and personnel issues as the distinguished members of the House did.

For more information on Flight Service Stations and the services provided please visit [www.naats.org](http://www.naats.org) or contact:

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