

Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs
CC: file
Date: July 31, 2005
Re: Update

The Senate courtesy is that the legislation sponsor makes the pertinent bill amendment. This means that Senator Tim Johnson should make the amendment on the Senate floor in September. Thus far his staff has indicated he will do so to both constituents and me. If this changes we have a fallback plan for another Senator to make the amendment.

We expect to talk with Senator Murray's Chief of Staff Rick Desimone next week. The Aviation Legislative Assistant is Casey Sixkiller but we understand from our Washington members that he has not yet returned their calls. To the best of our knowledge the Senator is back in Washington state right now.

We have also learned that Senator Byrd has made strong statements in support of our cause. I ask that our members in Elkins again contact his office and try to get him even more involved. The feeling in the Senate is that no one is better at getting and keeping federal facilities in his state.

As was the case in the House, we need to focus on not only the necessary Republican Senators to pass our amendment but also to ensure we keep all

the Democrats. Right now we believe our best bets are Specter, Bond, Snowe, Collins, Burns, Chafee, DeWine, Lugar, Voinovich and Lott. As you know, the Senate makeup is 55 Republicans, 44 Democrats and 1 Independent. Constituent contacts are critical to ensure we get commitments from these Senators.

One final note – the Senate amendment language is identical to the House version. If anything changes I will let you know.