

Dear Friends,

When Republicans in Congress adjourned for August earlier this week, they left behind some critical unfinished business – they neglected to resolve the FAA shutdown, leaving the agency that regulates air travel "grounded."

The FAA capital program shut down on July 23, resulting in a furlough of nearly 4,000 employees along with an estimated 87,000 construction jobs because of stop-work orders on capital projects. In New York State alone, this threatened \$62.6 million in airport construction funding, 2,177 airport construction jobs and 127 FAA jobs. This is the height of construction season and locally reduced economic activity in and around Long Island MacArthur Airport in Islip.

That's why I called for the House Republican leaders to bring Congress back into session in Washington, DC to resolve this standoff. If the shutdown continued until September, \$1.2 billion in tax revenue would be lost – revenue that would otherwise go towards aviation infrastructure and safety improvements. After spending weeks negotiating the best way to reduce our debt, it is absurd that House Republicans would let us lose \$1 billion in tax revenue and leave 90,000 workers stranded on the tarmac. What's worse, even though consumers weren't paying taxes on airline tickets, they saw no savings -- because the airlines raised their prices to pocket the difference.

On Thursday, I was relieved that an overdue agreement was reached with the Department of Transportation so that thousands of New Yorkers could go back to work. This never should have happened and we cannot let critical services get caught up in a House Republican agenda that just goes too far. This stunt threatened more than 90,000 jobs and our country's aviation industry. It's unacceptable and we can't play games like this with the FAA or our economy.

I will continue to fight against actions like this that negatively impact our economy. For more information on my work to end the FAA shutdown, please visit my website at <http://israel.house.gov>.

Grounded

Thursday, August 04, 2011

Sincerely,

Steve Israel

Member of Congress