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**BAUCUS APPLAUDS PASSAGE OF THREE-MONTH FAA EXTENSION**  
*Finance Committee Chairman Reaffirms Commitment to Full Reauthorization*

**Washington, DC**— Senate Finance Chairman Max Baucus (D-Mont.) commented today following Senate passage, by unanimous consent, to extend the Airport and Airway Trust Fund through March 31, 2010. Senate action last night follows House approval Wednesday of an identical measure, H.R. 4217. The three-month extension provides time for Congress to work toward full reauthorization of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) programs. Chairman Baucus led Congress in passing an earlier three month extension in September, 2009. Without last night's action, funding for FAA programs would have expired at the end of this year.

**"This extension is critical to the safety of our airways, to the tens of millions of travelers that frequent our airports each day and to saving thousands of aviation jobs in America,"** said Baucus. **"These programs fund essential maintenance and upgrades to airports in Montana and across the nation. Now Congress must focus on moving a full, robust reauthorization to ensure these programs continue to operate at the highest level without interruption."**

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