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April 15, 2015

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Finance Committee Tax Reform Working Group Comments

Chairman Hatch and Ranking Member Wyden:

ARSA is an international trade association with a distinguished record of representing certificated aviation maintenance facilities before Congress, the Federal Aviation Administration, the European Aviation Safety Agency, and other civil aviation authorities. ARSA members are primarily small-medium sized businesses (SMBs). The aviation maintenance industry employs nearly 300,000 U.S. workers and generates more than $43 billion in economic activity.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments. We commend the committee for the highly transparent and inclusive process used to gather ideas for tax reform.

ARSA members look forward to working with the committee on the following tax policy priorities:

- With tax compliance costs constantly increasing for SMBs, lawmakers must restore certainty and simplification to the tax code. Resources utilized for retaining tax attorneys and accountants could be used to hire more workers and invest in ARSA member companies.

- Many ARSA members are closely held, pass-through entities. Congress should proceed simultaneously on corporate and pass-through tax reform to ensure all businesses benefit from improvements to the Internal Revenue Code.

- ARSA strongly supports tax policy that encourages capital investment. Congress should permanently increase Sec. 179 expensing and phase out levels to incite economic growth and reward business risk-taking.

- The time is long overdue for permanent repeal of the estate tax. The estate tax is unfair, punishes hard work and risk, and discourages saving and investment. ARSA's family-owned member companies are forced to incur significant estate planning and insurance costs, which could be better used to invest and hire employees.

- ARSA opposes tax policies that will detrimentally impact the business and general aviation sectors. Consequently, Congress should refrain from altering general aviation aircraft depreciation schedules to ensure continued growth and job creation.

ARSA looks forward to working with Congress to restore long-term certainty and simplification to the tax code, and pursue pro-growth tax policies to encourage job creation, economic growth, business risk-taking, and investment.

Sincerely,

Daniel B. Fisher
Vice President of Legislative Affairs