

(Washington, DC) – Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) today supported the House’s passage of the Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization Act, which makes improvements in passenger safety, infrastructure, and consumer protection. The bill also includes Holt’s provision providing a level playing field for service-disabled small veteran business owners in getting business opportunities. The bill now moves to the Senate.

“This legislation would make significant improvements in air travel,” Holt said. “The bill would give the FAA the tools it needs to reduce delays and insure that passengers’ consumer rights are protected. I am also pleased that the bill includes my initiative to ensure that service-disabled veteran small business owners have opportunities to compete for federal business.”

The FAA Reauthorization Act would authorize \$70 billion for the FAA over the next four years. The bill would provide funding to modernize air traffic control and airport infrastructure, increase the number of aviation safety experts by more than one-third, and provide new consumer protections, including requiring airlines and airports to have emergency contingency plans to take care of passengers stranded in long tarmac delays. These plans would ensure that passengers have access to food, water, clean restrooms, and medical care. It also would require that passengers be allowed to deplane.

Holt’s provision would ensure that airports who receive Airport Improvement Program (AIP) grants meet the same goals in hiring service disabled veteran owned small businesses (SDVOSB) as they must meet in hiring businesses that are recognized as part of the Department of Transportation’s Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) program.