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News Release

Airlines for America Urges Governor Christie to Veto Illegal Revenue Diversion through a Jet Fuel Tax Hike

WASHINGTON, June 24, 2016 – [Airlines for America](#) (A4A), the industry trade organization for the leading [U.S. airlines](#), urges Governor Chris Christie to veto [New Jersey's proposed jet fuel tax hike](#). Ignoring the voices of thousands of residents, businesses and unions with deep roots across the state, New Jersey's Senate and Assembly budget committees voted yesterday in favor of a shortsighted and ill-considered proposal to dramatically increase jet fuel taxes by 25 fold. This stunning and arbitrary tax hike will dramatically increase costs for job-creating companies that currently drive \$22 billion of economic activity to New Jersey and employ more than 150,000 Garden State residents.

The proposal is a budgetary shell game that will do nothing to solve the problems facing New Jersey's Transportation Trust Fund and saddles airlines, their employees and their passengers with an unprecedented tax hike that makes it more difficult than ever for us to operate in the state. This deeply misguided effort is an [illegal diversion of funds that puts millions of dollars of federal grant money for New Jersey's infrastructure at risk](#), which would further strain the state's already struggling economy.

There is precedent for regulatory intervention and penalties in these kind of cases. In 2012, the FAA ordered the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to recover more than \$291 million that the Port had inappropriately taken from its airports over a six-year period. Federal law codified at [49 USC 47133](#) is explicit and unambiguous that taxes on jet fuel must be used for airports.

On behalf of the unions, residents and businesses that make up New Jersey's passenger, cargo, business and personal aviation industries, we strongly urge Governor Christie to veto this legislation in order to preserve jobs, federal grants and increased air service for New Jersey's families and businesses.

ABOUT A4A

Annually, commercial aviation helps drive nearly \$1.5 trillion in U.S. economic activity and more than 11 million U.S. jobs. Airlines for America (A4A) vigorously advocates on behalf of the American airline industry as a model of safety, customer service and environmental responsibility and as the indispensable network that drives our nation's economy and global competitiveness.

America needs a cohesive National Airline Policy that will support the integral role the nation's airlines play in connecting people and goods globally, spur the nation's economic growth and create more high-paying jobs. A4A works collaboratively with the airlines, labor groups, Congress and the Administration to improve air travel for everyone.

For more information about the airline industry, visit our website [airlines.org](#) and our blog, A Better Flight Plan, at [airlines.org/blog](#).

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MEDIA CONTACTS:

Jean Medina
Senior Vice President, Communications
jmedina@airlines.org

Penny Kozakos
Vice President, Communications
pkozakos@airlines.org