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Legislative Priorities

Modernize outdated FAA maintenance technical school regulations.

The regulation dictating what educational institutions must teach aspiring aviation maintenance mechanics has not been updated in more than 50 years. In an age where technological advances are constantly driving innovation for safer and more efficient aircraft, schools are required to teach techniques for constructing and maintaining the Wright Flyer. Industry is left with the cost of retraining graduates to complete basic tasks required to maintain a modern, sophisticated aircraft.

Since the agency issued a notice of proposed rulemaking in October 2015—which retained many prescriptive requirements industry took issue with—the agency has announced its intention to issue a supplemental notice of proposed rulemaking. While industry is hopeful that the revised proposal will provide a better framework for aviation maintenance school programs, the additional step means further delays for rulemaking.

Industry is therefore implementing a grassroots campaign to ensure the agency has the resources, support and political backing to get the rule out.

See related opinion piece from *TheHill.com*: [Aviation struggles with 50-year-old maintenance training regulation.](#)

Support a Skilled and Dynamic Aviation Workforce.

Despite facing a shortage of qualified technical workers, the aviation maintenance industry is growing and hiring. Federal funding and support of local workforce programs would train a new generation of skilled workers for high-paying jobs. Congress should focus on career and technical education programs that create new opportunities for collaboration between employers, government agencies and educational institutions to build programs that align with business needs while reinforcing the importance of applied skills.

About ATEC: *ATEC is a partnership of aviation maintenance training schools and employers. The council is dedicated to promoting and supporting technician education through its communications, advocacy programs and networking events.*