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For Immediate Release
Wednesday, March 10, 2010

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Regional airlines' presence continues to increase in the US

Regional airlines now represent 53 percent of commercial flights, RAA President Roger Cohen indicated during a presentation at the 35th Annual FAA Forecast in Washington, DC, today, underlining regionals provide the *only* scheduled air service to 492 US airports, nearly 75 percent of the nation's airports. During the past decade, the number of regional airline passengers has more than doubled to about 160 million. During the panel titled: "New Decade...Dawn or Dusk for Regional Carriers", Cohen offered "while today's regional airlines do not look like the ones operating when RAA was founded back in 1975, they are similar in three key ways: a total commitment to safety; a responsibility to provide air service to the vast majority of American communities; and a demonstrated ability to adapt successfully to whatever economic challenges come their way."

Also participating in today's breakout session were George Hamlin, President of Hamlin Transportation Group, on "What Does the Future Hold for Regional Aviation?" and Bill Swelbar, Research Engineer, International Center for Air Transportation, MIT, on "Mainline Pilot Scope: Will Regional Carriers be Permitted to Fly 90+ Seat Aircraft?"

Click [here](#) to view all three presentations.

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With safety as its highest priority, RAA represents North American regional airlines, and the manufacturers of products and services supporting the regional airline industry, before the Congress, DOT, FAA and other federal agencies.

With more than 13,000 regional airline flights every day, regional airlines operate 53 percent of the nation's commercial schedule. Some 160 million passengers annually -- more than one of every five domestic airline passengers -- travel on regionals, and the more than 2,700 regional aircraft comprise about nearly 40 percent of the US commercial passenger fleet. Most notably, regional airlines serve 631 communities across the country and in 492 of those communities -- 75 percent of the US -- regional airlines provide the only scheduled service.

Founded in 1975, Washington, DC-based RAA also provides a wide array of technical, government relations and public relations services for regional airlines. The association's 32 member airlines and 280 associate members represent the key decision makers of this vital sector of the commercial aviation industry.

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