FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 3, 2018
Contact: Dan Sweet
Phone: (703) 683-4646
Email: dan.sweet@rotor.com

Helicopter Association International
Applauds New Long-Term FAA Reauthorization Bill

October 3, 2018 – Alexandria, Virginia - Helicopter Association International (HAI) applauds Congress for passing a long-term FAA reauthorization bill. With the Senate vote today, this important five-year reauthorization bill moves to the President’s desk, providing long-term stability to the FAA and advancing important priorities for general aviation.

“This reauthorization bill provides significant improvements for general aviation and the helicopter industry specifically,” said Matt Zuccaro, HAI president and CEO. “The helicopter industry faces a severe pilot and mechanic shortage, and this bill provides important solutions to help address this critical industry issue. Additionally, the bill addresses needed reform to FAA regulations pertaining to training programs at aviation maintenance technician schools.

“H.R. 302 also provides needed clarity on the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) into the national airspace, allowing that sector to move forward with exciting commercial opportunities,” noted Zuccaro. “The bill also addresses an important helicopter safety issue: crash-resistant fuel systems. We commend Congress for their perseverance on this issue and for adopting the recommendations of the Rotorcraft Occupant Protection Working Group,” stated Zuccaro.

HAI thanks the bipartisan leadership in both the House and Senate in completing the bill. We commend Senate Commerce Chairman John Thune (R-S.D.) and Ranking Member Bill Nelson (D-Fla.), along with House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Bill Shuster (R-Pa.) and Ranking Member Peter DeFazio (D-Ore.) for their tireless work on behalf of the nation’s general aviation industry.

###

HAI is the professional trade association for the civil helicopter industry. HAI’s 1,500+ organizational members and 1,800 individual members safely operate more than 4,500 helicopters approximately 2.3 million flight hours each year in 73 nations. HAI is dedicated to the promotion of the helicopter as a safe, effective method of commerce and to the advancement of the international helicopter community.