

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:**  
Suzanne Rhode  
202-218-7224  
[srohde@buses.org](mailto:srohde@buses.org)

### **ABA's Inaugural Capitol Hill Fly-In A Big Success**

**Washington DC (May 11, 2016)** - Dozens of leaders from the motorcoach, travel and tourism industry traveled to Washington, DC last week to participate in the American Bus Association's (ABA) first annual Capitol Hill Fly-In, where they met with elected officials and their staff to discuss important issues impacting their business.

The day began at the Capitol Visitor Center where Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, Ranking Member of the House Transportation & Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, addressed participants and engaged with them on important issues facing the motorcoach, travel and tourism industries. Key Congressional staff from the Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Homeland Security Committees also addressed the members.

During the in-person meetings with the officials from both the House of Representatives and Senate, Fly-In participants personally thanked elected officials for supporting the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, a five-year surface transportation reauthorization bill that was passed in December 2015. In addition, participants discussed other critical issues, such as the FMCSA lease and interchange final rule and bus security grant funding. The event concluded at the ABA Washington, D.C. office with a celebratory reception.

"Our inaugural Fly-In proved to be a great success," said ABA President and CEO Peter J. Pantuso. "Our members not only had a chance to raise and discuss topical concerns impacting our industry but also had the opportunity to build valuable relationships with their elected representatives and staff."

###

#### **About the American Bus Association**

The American Bus Association (ABA) is the trade organization of the intercity bus industry, with more than 1,000 motorcoach and tour company members in the United States and Canada. Its members operate charter, tour, regular route, airport express, special operations and contract services. Another 2,800 members are travel and tourism organizations and suppliers of bus products and services who work in partnership with the North American motorcoach industry.



Don Devivo, ABA Vice Chairman; Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton; John Meier, ABA Chairman



An energetic panel led by veteran Congressional staffers helped set the stage for an afternoon of successful meetings.



Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC) delivered a rousing keynote address to participants and even took home a new assignment related to airport access issues.



The majestic Capitol Visitors Center served as the backdrop and launching point for ABA's successful fly-in event during National Travel & Tourism Week.



ABA's Fly-in was a new experience for many participants and will help prepare our next generation of industry leaders.



Several of ABA's affiliated Councils were represented at the fly-in, Capitol Bus Lines' Mary Young of Women in Buses and 2017 Marketplace Chair Brad Henton from the Country Music Hall of Fame provided unique perspectives during Hill meetings.