
Dedicated to the Advancement of the International Helicopter Community

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HAI Hires John Shea as New Government Affairs Director

Alexandria, Virginia (July 8, 2019) – Strengthening its advocacy efforts and building on its track record of legislative wins for the helicopter industry, Helicopter Association International (HAI) has hired John Shea as its new director of government affairs.

Shea will track at the state and federal levels all legislative developments related to the helicopter industry. Reporting to Vice President of Government Affairs Cade Clark, Shea will meet with US congressional staff to advocate for HAI members on helicopter and general aviation issues.

Shea comes to HAI from the National Association of State Aviation Officials (NASAO), where he served as director for government relations in 2019 and as interim president in 2018. For NASAO, he coordinated advocacy and legislative efforts with Congress and federal agencies, and he established the association’s legislative positions, goals, and timelines.

“His background of Hill experience and working with state-level officials means that John has a solid grounding in aviation issues,” Clark says. “By bringing him on, HAI has expanded our advocacy bandwidth tremendously.” Clark expects that Shea’s familiarity with the Federal Aviation Administration, knowledge and experience in government affairs, and deep experience in association management and operations will enable him to quickly become an effective member of the HAI advocacy team.

“HAI’s advocacy efforts have resulted in big wins for our industry, such as when we successfully advocated against the privatization of air traffic control. But we can’t rest on past accomplishments,” says HAI President and CEO Matt Zuccaro. “Hiring John Shea is one way to communicate to the world at large that we intend to fight for our members.”

Before joining NASAO, Shea was a congressional staffer for several years. His legislative portfolio included commerce, financial services, homeland security, trade, and transportation.

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Shea will bolster HAI's advocacy efforts in the following areas:

- Strengthening federal and state initiatives to strengthen workforce development for future helicopter pilots and maintenance technicians
- Preserving access to airspace for helicopter operations throughout the National Airspace System (NAS)
- Ensuring veterans keep their flight-training benefits
- Aiding the safe integration of unmanned aircraft systems into the NAS.

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HAI is the professional trade association for the international helicopter industry. HAI's 18,000 members represent 1,800 aviation businesses, and safely operate more than 4,500 helicopters approximately 2.3 million hours each year in more than 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.