**ABSTRACT:** Congress is hotly debating whether to privatize the air traffic control system—the most significant potential change to aviation since airline deregulation. Embracing a reform that President Clinton pursued unsuccessfully in the 1990s, the Trump Administration has made ATC privatization its highest transportation priority. But despite strong economic evidence from Canada and elsewhere that it works, U.S. politics continues to block reform, yielding a rich case study in the dysfunction of our policy process. Dorothy Robyn taught public policy at Harvard University, served as a senior official in the Clinton and Obama administrations, and has been a leading proponent of ATC privatization for 20+ years.