



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Chairman

Nick J. Rahall, II
Ranking Member

September 1, 2011

James W. Coon II, Chief of Staff

James H. Zoia, Democrat Chief of Staff

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Last year, Congress passed, and you signed, the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 (P. L. 111-216), which required the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to propose and finalize updated regulations to minimize pilot fatigue by August 1, 2011. The FAA last fall issued a thorough notice of proposed rulemaking proposing updated regulations and soliciting comments from the public. As of today, one month has passed since the deadline to update limits on the amount of time airline pilots can spend on duty and requirements for them to rest before starting work. We are disappointed by the delay, and we write to encourage you to expedite all pending review of the updated regulations.

Pilot fatigue was implicated in the crash of a regional airliner near Buffalo, New York, in February 2009, even though the issue of fatigue had been on the National Transportation Safety Board's Most Wanted List of Transportation Safety Improvements since 1990, nearly two decades before the tragedy. This rulemaking has been debated and scrutinized in public for the better part of a year. We urge you to swiftly complete any pending review so that a final rule, which will establish one level of safety for all those who entrust their lives, loved ones, and property to the Nation's airlines, can be issued immediately.

Sincerely,

NICK J. RAHALL, II
Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

JERRY F. COSTELLO
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation