

August 20, 2007

The Honorable George W. Bush
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing about the vital need to nominate a strong individual who can be confirmed as the next administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Our nation cannot afford a recess appointee as we face the time-critical challenge of modernizing our nation's aviation infrastructure.


In 1995, Congress and the president recognized the importance of strong leadership at the FAA when Congress made the FAA administrator's term of office five years. Your former Secretary of Transportation, Norman Mineta, put it succinctly on October 7, 1993, during House floor consideration of this legislation, when he said:

"This is an agency that is so highly technical that past administrators have acknowledged that, despite their aviation expertise, the learning curve to become a proficient administrator is over a year. The result of this combination of constant turnover and complex subject matter is that the FAA has had significant periods of time in the past several years in which the agency was being run by an administrator in training. Hopefully, this bill will provide some additional stability to this agency that is so vital to aviation safety."

We are united in our belief that modernization is absolutely necessary and that critical decisions impacting the entire aviation infrastructure will need to be made in the next two years. If confirmed for a five-year term, the next administrator can provide the necessary continuity and strong leadership of the interagency process to ensure that critical decisions are made in a timely manner to begin the urgent task of modernizing our aviation infrastructure.

Mr. President, we urge that your choice for this important position be nominated for a full five-year term in order for this individual to lead the way on modernization now.

Sincerely,



Stephen Alterman
President
Cargo Airline Association



Ed Bolen
President and CEO
National Business Aviation Association



Phil Boyer
President
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association



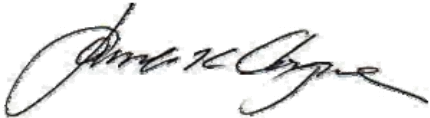
Peter J. Bunce
President and CEO
General Aviation Manufacturers Association



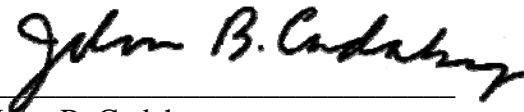
Roger Cohen
President
Regional Airline Association



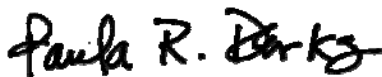
Bill Connors
Executive Director and COO
National Business Travel Association



James K. Coyne
President
National Air Transport Association



John B. Cudahy
President
International Council of Air Shows



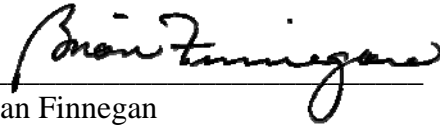
Paula R. Derks
President
Aircraft Electronics Association



Brian E. Dubie
Chairman
Aerospace States Association



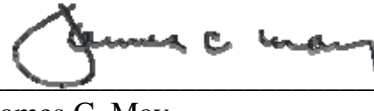
Peter F. Dumont
President
Air Traffic Control Association



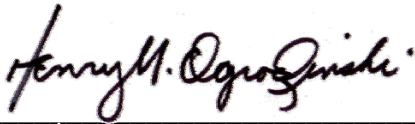
Brian Finnegan
President
Professional Aviation Maintenance
Association



Sarah MacLeod
Executive Director
Aeronautical Repair Station Association



James C. May
President and CEO
Air Transport Association



Henry M. Ogradzinski
President and CEO
National Association of State Aviation Officials



Tom Poberezny
President
Experimental Aircraft Association



Ronald N. Priddy
President
National Air Carriers Association



Susan L. Sheets
President
National Aircraft Resale Association

cc. The Honorable Mary E. Peters
The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye
The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV
The Honorable Ted Stevens
The Honorable Trent Lott
The Honorable James L. Oberstar
The Honorable Jerry F. Costello
The Honorable John L. Mica
The Honorable Thomas E. Petri