



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington DC 20515

Peter A. DeFazio
Chairman

Katherine W. Dedrick
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Sam Graves
Ranking Member

Paul J. Sass
Republican Staff Director

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Daniel K. Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)
U.S. Department of Transportation
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Secretary Chao and Acting FAA Administrator Elwell:

Nine weeks ago this week we wrote to the FAA regarding the tragic deaths of 346 people, including eight Americans, in two separate crashes of Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. The letter informed Acting Administrator Elwell that our Committee was investigating these accidents and related issues regarding the certification of the 737 MAX aircraft and it requested numerous records to help inform our investigation. Since then our respective staff have had continuous, weekly, ongoing discussions about these records requests. In addition, several weeks ago Secretary Chao committed to us that the Department would be forthcoming and cooperative with the Committee regarding our investigation into the 737 MAX aircraft.

The Committee has been patient and respectful of the time and resources available to the FAA to abide by this request, and accommodating in seeking to narrow the scope of this request at the behest of the Federal Aviation Administration. In addition to these weekly discussions, more than four weeks ago, Committee staff agreed to a bipartisan meeting at FAA Headquarters to further discuss these records requests in an additional accommodation to the FAA. Until yesterday, the only records the Committee had received from the FAA was lists of documents Committee staff agreed to review and prioritize in an effort to further accommodate the FAA's requests, and one technical document that is public and widely available on the Internet. Yesterday, we received a second delivery of documents that was composed of a total of 82-pages of records. Although we appreciate that these documents were finally provided, we are concerned about the slow pace of the

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Acting Administrator Daniel K. Elwell
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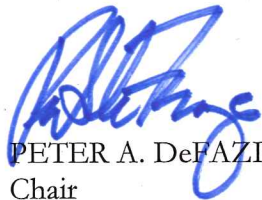
FAA's response. The FAA informed our staff weeks ago that they had already identified hundreds of thousands of responsive e-mails and tens of thousands of responsive documents.

To say we are disappointed and a bit bewildered at the ongoing delays to appropriately respond to our records requests would be an understatement. We are concerned about the FAA's lack of a sufficient response to our request. In addition to a written explanation regarding the continual delay in providing the Committee, which has clear and unambiguous oversight authority over the FAA, with these records please provide us with a detailed timeline regarding delivery of the documents we originally asked for in our April 1st letter.

The Lion Air and Ethiopian Airlines accidents have focused public attention on the FAA. As leaders of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure we have an obligation to the public to oversee and improve U.S. transportation infrastructure, including the safety of the aviation industry. You both also have an obligation to the Committee to respond to the investigation we have launched regarding the recent 737 MAX accidents. We trust that the lack of an effective response to the Committee so far will be quickly resolved to allow the Committee's investigation to proceed, which we hope will help to identify issues that will improve aircraft safety, the certification process and oversight of these issues.

We look forward to a timely response to this letter. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



PETER A. DeFAZIO
Chair



RICK LARSEN
Chair
Subcommittee on Aviation

cc: The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure

The Honorable Garret Graves, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation