

May 7, 2024

Chair Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member Ted Cruz
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Subject: Endorsement of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

We, the families of the victims of the tragic ET302 crash, write to express our endorsement of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. We commend you and the Senate Commerce Committee for your diligent efforts in crafting a bill that makes progress on aviation safety and we urge passage of this legislation by both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

We are particularly grateful for the Committee's dedication to preserving the key safety improvements enacted under the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act (ACSAA) of 2020. This commitment helps ensure that the progress made in aviation safety is not only maintained but also built upon. We appreciate the elimination of section 547, the misnamed "Incremental Safety Improvement" provision that was contained in the House version of the bill. Unlike past FAA Reauthorization Bills, the committee avoided reducing it to merely a vehicle for industry demands and importantly, steers clear of diminishing safety standards, particularly those concerning Boeing.

The inclusion of provisions for enhanced oversight of foreign aircraft maintenance facilities, increased staffing for air traffic control, and the upgrading of critical systems are commendable steps forward. These measures are vital for the ongoing effort to improve our national aviation safety system.

There is room for further enhancement. We are hopeful that future legislations will incorporate the comprehensive safety measures outlined in our nine-point plan, which we believe are crucial for the prevention of future aircraft crashes. These include:

1. **Incident Resolution:** Ensure that airlines report aircraft incidents to the FAA in a timely and consistent manner, and that FAA fully investigates and resolves them.¹
2. **Require Safety Upgrades:** Implement a 20-25 year sunset on type certificates and eliminate impractical exemptions under the changed product rule.

¹ While we applaud the requirement in the bill for annual briefings to Congress on FAA SDRs, we would urge congress to adopt specific mandatory reporting standards for the SDRs in order to allow consistency in the data collected. We also believe that the FAA should work with its counterparts in other countries to establish world-wide standards for reporting, with the goal of achieving a single, consistent database of aircraft incidents.

3. **Individual Accountability:** Require individual sign-offs by Authorized Representatives on critical approval forms to enable audits and accountability.
4. **Passenger Representation:** Increase passenger and crash family representation on FAA advisory committees to ensure a balance of interests.
5. **Transparency:** Require unreacted public disclosure of manufacturer ODA manuals, incident investigations, and changed product rule justifications.
6. **Zero Tolerance ODAs:** Mandatory suspension of ODAs for fraud, deceit and repeated poor performance.
7. **Enhanced Production Line Inspections:** Reassign FAA personnel to dramatically increase direct inspections on aircraft production floors.
8. **Professionalism of ODA Members:** Increase training and consider licensing of ODA members to increase professionalism and ethics separate from manufacturer workforce.
9. **End NTSB secrecy:** Remove the NTSB ability to prevent crash victims from getting information in civil discovery.

We appreciate your leadership and commitment to advancing aviation safety. We look forward to collaborating further to ensure that future legislation fully encompasses these critical safety measures.

Thank you again for your steadfast dedication to protecting the flying public and honoring the memory of those we have lost by working towards a safer aviation future.

Sincerely,

Catherine Berthet, mother of Camille Geoffroy

Naoise Ryan, wife of Mick Ryan

Michael Stumo and Nadia Milleron, parents of Samya Rose Stumo

Ike and Susan Riffel, parents of Melvin and Bennett Riffel

Chris Moore, father of Danielle Moore

Javier De Luis, brother of Graziella de Luis y Ponce