

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 26, 2017

The Honorable Elaine Chao
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

America is currently enjoying the safest period of airline travel in history. As such, we write to express our support for maintaining the minimum first officer training and qualification regulations for airline pilots in Part 121 airline operations. Since the enactment of the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 (P.L. 111-216) these safety regulations, issued and enforced by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), have made passenger travel in the U.S. national airspace the safest transportation system in the world.

The current safety regulations were established in the aftermath of a series of fatal airline crashes between 2004 and 2009, all of which were caused in part by inadequate training and qualifications standards. In response, Congress mandated improved safety regulations in several areas, including pilot training, minimum first officer qualifications, and flight experience. Since passage of the Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act of 2010, there have been no passenger fatalities due to an accident of a U.S. Part 121 passenger airline. In the two decades prior to enactment of this aviation safety measure, there were more than 1,100 airline passenger fatalities (Part 121), according to the National Transportation Safety Board. It is apparent that our nation's flight system and passengers are safer today because of these rules.

As you consider which regulations should be streamlined, we strongly urge you to keep these facts in mind. It is critical to maintain the highest level of safety in our airspace, and ensuring that professional pilots remain highly qualified and well-trained is a key factor in achieving that goal. Maintaining strong, safety-focused pilot training and qualification standards will protect the traveling public and save lives.

Sincerely,



CHRIS COLLINS
Member of Congress



DAVE LOEBSACK
Member of Congress



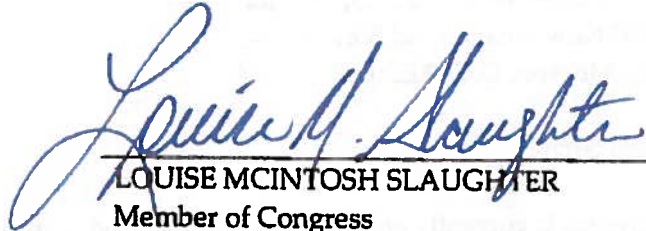
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TOM REED
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GLEN "G.T." THOMPSON
Member of Congress



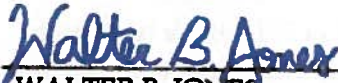
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TULSI GABBARD
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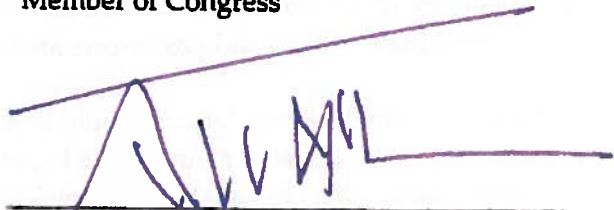
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TED W. LIEU
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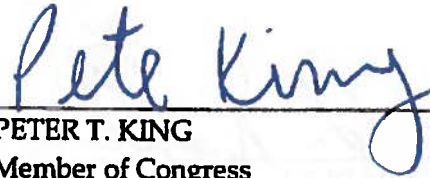
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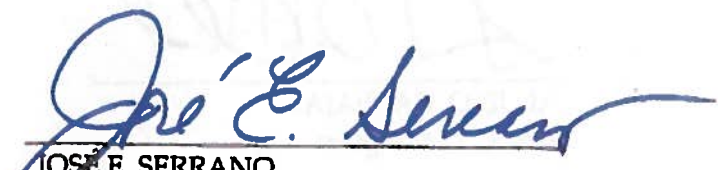


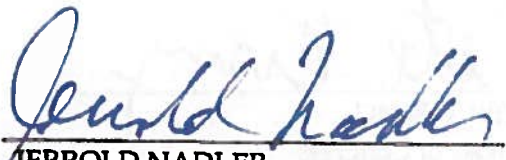
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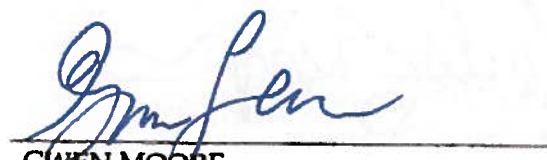

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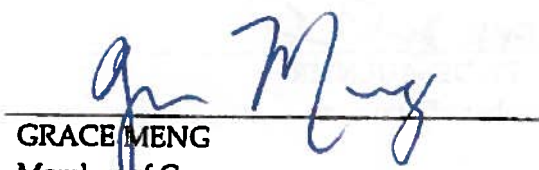

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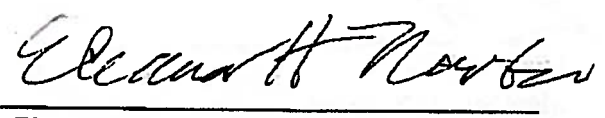

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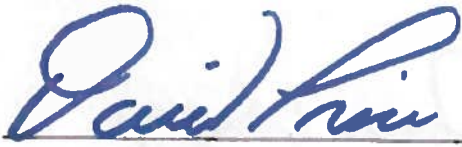

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DAVID PRICE
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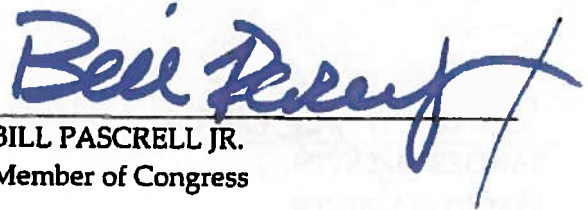
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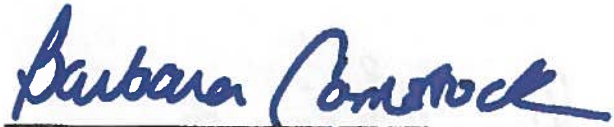
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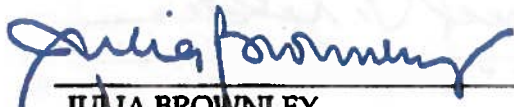
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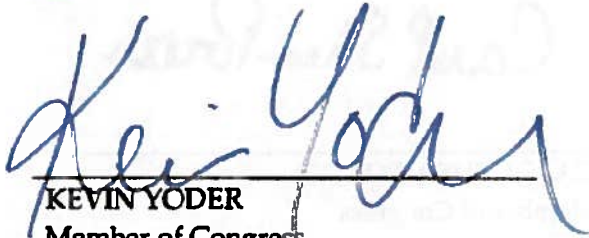
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FILEMON VELA
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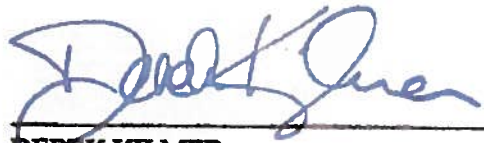
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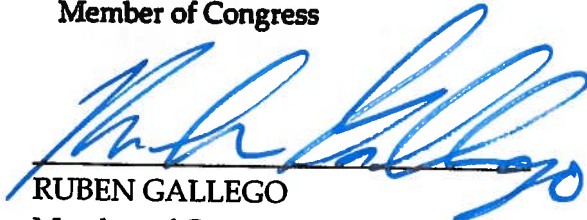

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