

JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA, CHAIRMAN

ROGER WICKER, MISSISSIPPI  
ROY BLUNT, MISSOURI  
MARCO RUBIO, FLORIDA  
KELLY AYOTTE, NEW HAMPSHIRE  
TED CRUZ, TEXAS  
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA  
JERRY MORAN, KANSAS  
DAN SULLIVAN, ALASKA  
RON JOHNSON, WISCONSIN  
DEAN HELLER, NEVADA  
CORY GARDNER, COLORADO  
STEVE DAINES, MONTANA

BILL NELSON, FLORIDA  
MARIA CANTWELL, WASHINGTON  
CLAIRE McCASKILL, MISSOURI  
AMY KLOBUCHAR, MINNESOTA  
RICHARD BLUMENTHAL, CONNECTICUT  
BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII  
EDWARD MARKEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
CORY BOOKER, NEW JERSEY  
TOM UDALL, NEW MEXICO  
JOE MANCHINI II, WEST VIRGINIA  
GARY PETERS, MICHIGAN

DAVID SCHWERTZ, STAFF DIRECTOR  
KIM LIPSKY, DEMOCRATIC STAFF DIRECTOR

# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <http://commerce.senate.gov>

March 2, 2015

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta,

The recent GAO report describing significant vulnerabilities to critical Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) information systems, affecting mission-critical air traffic control programs, highlights troubling weaknesses. These vulnerabilities have potential to compromise the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system (NAS), which the traveling public relies on each and every day. We cannot risk undermining our investments in NextGen air traffic control modernization by leaving critical systems such as En Route Automation Modernization (ERAM) and our telecommunications infrastructure open to intrusion by nefarious actors.

In its report titled "FAA Needs to Address Weaknesses in Air Traffic Control Systems," GAO recommends 17 steps the FAA should take to secure its information security systems and address vulnerabilities. We ask that the FAA provide a full accounting on the status of these recommendations, including specific actions cited in the limited distribution report, as well as any other steps taken to secure FAA mission-critical systems.

Sincerely,

  
John Thune  
Chairman

  
Bill Nelson  
Ranking Member

CC: The Honorable Anthony Foxx