



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

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Vice President

"AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"

March 2, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science & Transportation
420-A Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on
Commerce, Science & Transportation
127A Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

On behalf of more than 155,000 members of the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU) – the largest union in the U.S. airline industry – I am writing to express our strong support for Phil Washington to be the next Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration. Mr. Washington is exactly the leader that the FAA needs as it navigates the increasingly complex issues facing our national airspace.

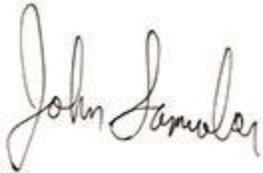
The TWU represents nearly every class and craft of worker across 17 airlines and several airline contractors. Our members include flight attendants, ground service workers, mechanics, dispatchers, pilot simulator instructors, and other frontline workers whose safety and careers are under the FAA's oversight. It is essential that the next FAA administrator prioritize the needs of these professionals as they manage an agency in transition.

The next FAA administrator faces a significant backlog of overdue rulemakings and congressional mandates that are weighing down the safety of our airspace, as well as the competitiveness of our industry. Among these are new drug and alcohol testing requirements for safety sensitive personnel at FAA-certified aircraft repair stations outside the United States. These facilities are operating at far below our standards for dozens of safety issues. This set of loopholes is driving airlines to offshore work onto the lower standard. Closing these loopholes will ensure that American mechanics can compete on a level playing field with their global counterparts and raise safety across our airspace.

The FAA must also responsibly move forward on integrating new technologies and business practices without undermining safety. Today, without permanent leadership and absent a senate-confirmed Administrator able to make commitments on behalf of the agency, these issues are being addressed ad hoc or not at all. Too many safety critical concerns, like remote dispatching, have been left without any guidance from senior leadership to agency personnel. And the effect new technologies like advanced air mobility might have on our airspace is not being considered holistically or systemically. These problems will persist absent a confirmed administrator vested with all the powers and responsibilities of the agency.

Phil Washington is a proven leader who will serve with honor and distinction. His record of accomplishment as a public administrator speaks for itself. The TWU is proud to support Mr. Washington to be the next FAA Administrator and we hope the Committee will move swiftly to approve his nomination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Samuelson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

John Samuelson
International President