

September 16th, 2010

The Honorable Raymond H. "Ray" LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:


On behalf of our associations and members, we are writing to urge the Obama Administration to move forward with implementation of the U.S. - EU bilateral aviation safety agreement. We strongly believe this issue should be a priority item for discussion when you meet with European Commission Vice President Kallas later this month.

The U.S. - EU safety agreement strengthens the long-standing safety cooperation that exists between the U.S. and Europe. This cooperation has led to higher, common safety standards between the U.S. and Europe and has been key to improving aviation safety throughout the world. In addition, implementing the agreement will enable the safe, efficient flow of trade to continue unimpeded between the U.S. and Europe, supporting U.S. jobs during a difficult economic recovery for the U.S. aerospace industry.

In particular, implementation will help facilitate continued recognition by the EU of U.S. training of European pilots and of the FAA certification of U.S. airlines. It will also permit a planned modification in the fees and charges assigned to U.S. aerospace manufacturers for EASA validation of products certificated by FAA and will protect U.S. repair stations from redundant and costly safety inspections by European regulators. All of these outcomes not only enhance safety but also help reduce or avoid increased costs, thereby strengthening the economic prospects of U.S. companies and their employees.

Thank you for consideration of this request. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you.

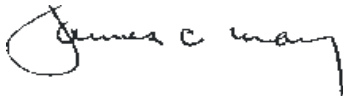
Sincerely,



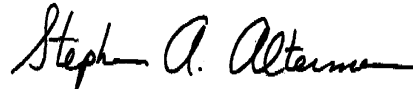
Marion Blakey
President & CEO, AIA



Craig Fuller
President & CEO, AOPA



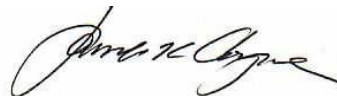
Jim May
President & CEO, ATA



Steve Alterman
President, CAA



Peter Bunce
President & CEO, GAMA



James Coyne
President, NATA



Ed Bolen
President & CEO, NBAA

