

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 15, 2012

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Huerta,

We urge you to fully enact provisions of Public Law 111-216, the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 in an expeditious manner. As Members of Congress who have fought for a fair and complete implementation of this law on behalf of our constituents - the Families of Continental Flight 3407 - we remain vigilant to your agency's actions and remain wary of the slow pace of the rulemaking process.

Recent media reports indicate that the aviation industry is aggressively lobbying the FAA to water down the provision of the law requiring pilots to have at least 1,500 substantive flight training hours to receive an air transport pilot (ATP) certification. In the strongest possible terms, we urge you to uphold the integrity of the law and resist attempts to compromise the safety of the flying public. As we indicated to you in correspondence on April 27, 2012, the 1,500 flight hour requirement must be taken very seriously, and the requirement should be achieved through actual flight hours before a pilot can be eligible for an ATP certification with very few exceptions. These requirements cannot be abridged, as we have seen in the past that when flight crews have not received adequate training, the propensity for a fatal error to occur increases.

We appreciate the significant responsibility your agency has toward ensuring that our skies are safe. The explicit guidance that Congress provided in the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 should be heeded to the fullest extent as they relate to matters that have a direct effect on the livelihoods of our constituents.

Sincerely,



BRIAN HIGGINS  
Member of Congress



LOUISE M. SLAUGHTER  
Member of Congress



TOM REED  
Member of Congress



KATHLEEN HOCHUL  
Member of Congress