

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 15, 2017

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
U.S Senate Committee on Commerce
Science, and Transportation
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
U.S Senate Committee on Commerce
Science, and Transportation
427 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Thune and Ranking Member Nelson:

We write to urge inclusion of significant certification and regulatory reforms for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as part of a long term FAA reauthorization bill this year. These reforms will help bring new safety technology to the market, strengthen U.S. aviation sales and exports, and more effectively utilize the resources of the FAA and industry.

The Senate Aviation Subcommittee held a hearing earlier this year on certification reform, and it is broadly acknowledged that such reforms will help small and large businesses, and drive U.S. competitiveness and job growth. As one witness testified, a delay in certification can be devastating, particularly for a small business.

These reforms that you included in last year's FAA reauthorization enjoyed strong bipartisan support, and the bill saw a 95-3 vote. Specifically, the bill contained provisions to:

- Secure fuller utilization of the FAA's Organizational Designation Authorization (ODA) program to improve safety while reducing delays and the cost of aircraft certification and better leverage resources to help aviation suppliers;
- Require FAA to more actively engage with aviation authorities globally to facilitate the validation of U.S. certified products and safety standards;
- Reduce FAA's inconsistent interpretation of their own regulations; and
- Improve the flow of new aircraft designs and safety technologies into the airplane and rotorcraft fleet.

We recognize your leadership in developing these reforms and want to work with you to move them forward and enact them in a timely manner this year as part of FAA reauthorization.

Sincerely,



Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
Operation, Safety & Security



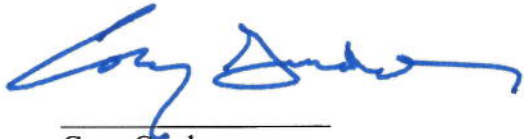
Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
Operation, Safety & Security



Jerry Moran
United States Senator



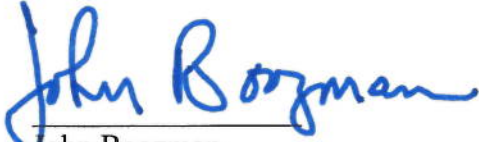
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



Cory Gardner
United States Senator



Gary Peters
United States Senator



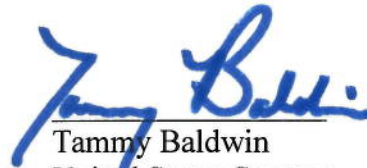
John Boozman
United States Senator



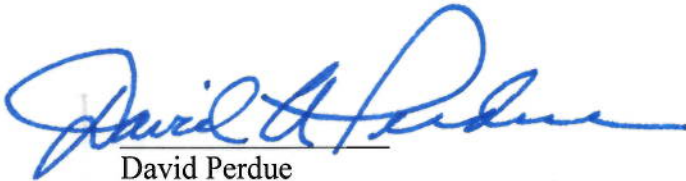
Tom Udall
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator



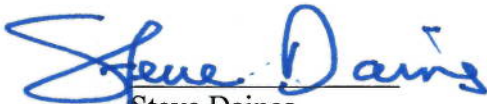
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David Perdue
United States Senator



Joe Manchin
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Maggie Hassan
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



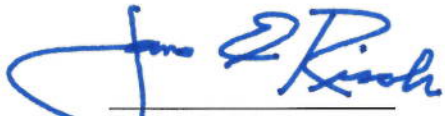
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United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



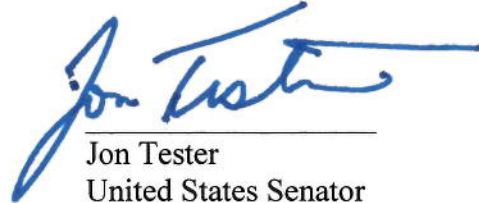
Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senator



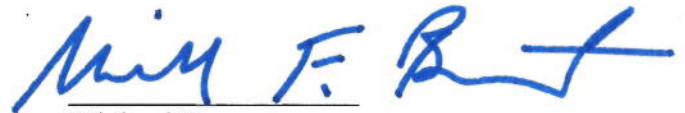
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United States Senator



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Michael Bennet
United States Senator



Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator