



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT  
**AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL**

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April 13, 2010

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable John Mica  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Costello  
Chairman  
Aviation Subcommittee  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Thomas Petri  
Ranking Member  
Aviation Subcommittee  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar, Representative Mica, Chairman Costello, and Representative Petri:

On behalf of the 53,000 members of the Air Line Pilots Association, International, I wish to express our strong support for H.R. 4714, a bill to reauthorize the National Transportation Safety Board.

This important legislation provides increased funding over the next four years which will allow the Board to hire an additional 66 full time equivalent positions, 27 of whom will be aviation related. Such an increase would bring the Board to a level of 477 full time equivalents, which is its optimal staffing level. This is absolutely necessary for the Board to be able to take on more investigations and accomplish detailed examinations of transportation safety issues.

Most vital to this legislation is the provision that acknowledges the internationally accepted concept that accidents are not the result of a single cause, but rather the combination of many factors. The bill removes the outdated limitation of requiring the NTSB to determine a single cause or probable cause of a transportation accident, and provides them the flexibility to identify multiple causes or probable causes. This is consistent with the way major investigative agencies worldwide treat transportation accidents and incidents.

H.R. 4714 provides the necessary resources and tools to the Board to not only accomplish its crucial mission but also allow it to maintain its position as the world's leading investigative agency. I urge you to swiftly pass this vital safety legislation.

Sincerely,

John H. Prater, President