



**national association of air medical communication specialists**

April 16, 2010

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Chairman, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable John Mica  
Ranking Member, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

The Honorable Jerry Costello  
Chairman, House Transportation & Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee

The Honorable Thomas Petri  
Ranking Member, House Transportation & Infrastructure Aviation Subcommittee

Dear Committee Leadership:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are writing to express our support for the increased funding levels provided in H.R. 4714, the "National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010." We are particularly thankful for your efforts to improve funding to the NTSB so that it can meet the staffing needs necessary to provide more thorough investigations into transportation accidents, especially in improving the safety of aviation medicine.

As leaders in the air medical community, we strongly support the efforts of the NTSB to improve air medical safety. Achieving the highest safety for our patients and crew is of utmost importance. The industry is working to identify and mitigate potential risks to safety and improvement requires better data. The interface between technology and human factors has been identified as a risk to operations. The NTSB has identified that the incorporation of technological advances is needed as an effective tool in mitigating safety risks. That noted, there will always be human and other factors involved in air medical flights that must be understood in order to better manage them safely.

There are a number of ongoing collaborative efforts in the helicopter aviation industry and air medical community including the work by the International Helicopter Safety Team and a sub air medical group that are analyzing the air medical accidents of the past in hopes of identifying and correcting any issues that might prevent further accidents in the future. Each of these efforts relies heavily on information and analysis provided by the NTSB, and each of these efforts has identified missing elements of detailed accident data as a key obstacle to their efforts.

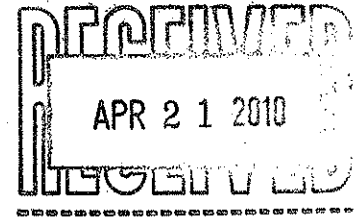
The NTSB understands these concerns and has been working diligently to address them within the constraints of available resources and authority. The increased funding levels and authorization adjustments provided in H.R. 4714 will give the NTSB the ability to increase the number of available investigators and the authority to provide more detailed analysis of both accidents and incidents. Again, any information gained from these investigations will only benefit efforts to prevent such incidents in the future.

We thank you for your support of the NTSB and your ongoing efforts to improve the safety of air medicine ensuring the safest possible services for the patients we serve.

Sincerely,

*Don Looper*

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NAACS President



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