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April 21, 2010

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman,
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 226-1270

The Honorable John Mica
Ranking Member,
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 225-6782

The Honorable James Oberstar
Chairman,
Subcommittee on Aviation
U.S. House of Representatives
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 226-1270

The Honorable Thomas Petri
Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Aviation
U.S. House of Representatives
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-6782

Dear Chairman Oberstar, Chairman Costello, Ranking Member Mica, and Ranking Member Petri:

The Regional Airline Association shares an important, common mission with the National Transportation Safety Board and Congress: the relentless pursuit of the safest skies attainable. Therefore, I am writing on behalf of our member airlines to support increased authorization and funding levels in H.R. 4714, the National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act of 2010.

The NTSB has worked diligently to investigate transportation accidents and is an important partner in advancing our shared safety agenda. Therefore, RAA strongly supports increased funding and staffing levels for the Board so that it may continue its important work in enhancing transportation safety.

As you know, H.R. 4714 provides increased funding over the next four years, starting at \$117.4 million in fiscal year 2011 and increasing to \$124.2 million in fiscal year 2014. These increased

funding levels will allow NTSB to meet its critical mission of investigating transportation accidents and will allow the Board to hire an additional 66 full-time equivalent positions, increasing its staffing to 477 FTEs. This number represents the Safety Board's optimal staffing level and will enable the agency to take on more investigations and accomplish detailed examinations of transportation safety issues.

We encourage you and your colleagues to pass legislation reauthorizing the NTSB with these increased funding levels intact and to resist any efforts to reduce funding or staff levels at NTSB. A fully-staffed NTSB will help ensure that air travel continues to be the safest form of transportation in the world. RAA fully supports this increased funding to enable this most important work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Cohen', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Roger Cohen