

April 12, 2010

Congressman James Oberstar, Chairman  
Congressman Jerry Costello, Chairman  
Congressman John Mica, Ranking Member  
Congressman Thomas Petri, Ranking Member  
US House of Representatives  
Aviation Subcommittee  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressmen,

I would like to thank you all for your dedication to transportation safety. I appreciate the opportunities that I have been given to speak with members of the Aviation Subcommittee and I am incredibly thankful for the actions that have been taken because of your genuine concern for transportation safety.

As I reflect over the last five years, one thing that has carried me along this journey is the hope that something positive would come from our loss, that things would change. The initial bit of hope was generated by the National Transportation Safety Board in the days following the loss of my husband. What the NTSB provides to families of disasters and to the traveling public is incredibly important. The NTSB consists of dedicated, professional individuals that work under difficult situations, and make a difference for people every day. It is for that reason that I want to express my support for them. I would like to ask the House to consider the critical importance of the funding of the NTSB, and vote in favor of the National Transportation Safety Board reauthorization bill. In order for the NTSB to meet all of the needs involved in transportation safety, they must have sufficient funding to ensure adequate staffing. The funding is crucial in order for the NTSB to have the necessary 477 full-time employees to investigate accidents, create factual reports, make proper recommendations, and ensure safety. The reduction of funding/failure to provide adequate funding would lead to overly burdened staff, delays in investigations, and delays in addressing safety issues. Lack of proper funding and the resulting loss of NTSB staff, would inhibit the NTSB in providing successful safety improvements due to delays of important safety recommendations, which are key to preventing future accidents.

The personal and economic cost of an accident is quite significant and when disaster and heartbreak can be prevented, it is right to take the necessary actions to avoid it. The NTSB is the largest factor in the prevention of transportation disasters. I ask for your support of the NTSB reauthorization bill, please.

Kind Regards,

Tricia Andria – Coffman  
Wife of David J Coffman, Circuit City aviation disaster 02/16/2005  
12436 Gayton Station Blvd  
Henrico, VA 23233  
Phone 804-360-8658, 804-380-8806  
triciacoffman@yahoo.com