



U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

December 21, 2012

The Honorable John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As requested in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Public Law 112-95, Section 606 (a), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has implemented, in as cost effective a manner as possible, a staffing model for aviation safety inspectors developed pursuant to the National Academy of Sciences study entitled "Staffing Standards for Aviation Inspectors." In doing so, I and/or my designees have consulted with interested persons, including the exclusive bargaining representative for aviation safety inspectors certified under Section 7111, title 5, United States Code. The description of this model as well as our specific implementation strategies were provided to Congress on March 31, 2012, through the submission of the 2012 Aviation Safety Workforce Plan. This plan can be found on our Web site at:

http://www.faa.gov/about/office_org/headquarters_offices/agi/reports/media/FAA%20Aviation%20Safety%20Workforce%20Plan%202012.pdf

To meet the requirements in the Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act, 2012, (Public Law 112-55) the FAA provides an annual Aviation Safety Workforce Plan not later than March 31 of each year, which includes a background for current staffing levels, describes the evolving aviation safety environment, forecasts expected attrition and specific hiring targets over a 10-year period, and details models and strategies for meeting staffing needs through better management practices. This Workforce Plan specifically addresses the Safety Critical Operational Staff position of Aviation Safety Inspector. This legislation imposes on the FAA a penalty of \$100,000 for each day the report is past due.

In summary, the submission of this annual Aviation Safety Workforce Plan meets and exceeds the requirement stated in Section 606 (b) to provide a staffing model for our safety inspector workforce. The FAA, therefore, considers the annual Workforce Plan as meeting the intent of Section 606 (b), and we will ensure that both the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

of the Senate receive a copy of this annual Workforce Plan. We anticipate sending an updated Aviation Safety Workforce Plan to Congress no later than March 31, 2013.

We have sent identical letters to Chairman Mica, Senator Hutchison, and Congressman Rahall.

If I can be of further assistance, please contact me or Roderick D. Hall, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,



Michael P. Huerta
Acting Administrator



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800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

December 21, 2012

The Honorable John L. Mica
Chairman, House Transportation and
Infrastructure Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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Sincerely,



Michael P. Huerta
Acting Administrator



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800 Independence Ave., S.W.
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December 21, 2012

The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison
Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hutchison:

As requested in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, Public Law 112-95, Section 606 (a), the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has implemented, in as cost effective a manner as possible, a staffing model for aviation safety inspectors developed pursuant to the National Academy of Sciences study entitled "Staffing Standards for Aviation Inspectors." In doing so, I and/or my designees have consulted with interested persons, including the exclusive bargaining representative for aviation safety inspectors certified under Section 7111, title 5, United States Code. The description of this model as well as our specific implementation strategies were provided to Congress on March 31, 2012, through the submission of the 2012 Aviation Safety Workforce Plan. This plan can be found on our Web site at:

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Huerta", with a circled number "1" to the right.

Michael P. Huerta
Acting Administrator



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December 21, 2012

The Honorable Nick J. Rahall, II
Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rahall:

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Michael P. Huerta
Acting Administrator