

From: FAA Administrator Mike Whitaker

Subject: Thank You



**Federal Aviation
Administration**

December 12, 2024

Dear FAA Team,

Serving as the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration – with this incredible team – has been the honor of my lifetime. The United States is the safest and most complex airspace in the world, and that is because of your commitment to the safety of the flying public. This has been the best and most challenging job of my career, and I wanted you to hear directly from me that my tenure will come to a close on January 20, 2025.

As I conclude my time at the FAA, my confidence in you to meet our safety mission has never been stronger. This past year, air travel rebounded to near record highs but cancellations were at record lows — a testament to your excellence and dedication. It is not just me who recognizes what you do – the tens of the thousands of people who fly every day do, too.

You have seen leadership come and go – and through every transition you have kept air travel steady and safe. This transition will be no different. As Deputy Administrator Katie Thomson's final day comes on January 10, Mark House, our Assistant Administrator for Finance & Management, will step in as Acting Deputy Administrator. Mark has 20 years of executive experience at the FAA, has served on the Management Board since 2018, and is uniquely qualified to guide the FAA and ensure a smooth transition.

As I reflect on my time with all of you, I appreciate how you continue to be aligned around our objective to keep the National Airspace System safe, and by the numerous accomplishments you have achieved this year in support of our safety mission.

Whether it was oversight of manufacturers and airlines or looking at our own processes, we enhanced the safety of the NAS. And it has not been business as usual for Boeing. We have dramatically increased oversight, including more inspectors and closer scrutiny over production. We are also making sure the company implements a robust safety management system, which will be crucial to an enduring safety culture.

Together, we are also staffing the NAS of the future. This year, we beat our air traffic controller hiring goal, and I have every confidence you'll do it again next year.

Thanks to your hard work and perseverance, the FAA is ready for the air travel of the future with a final rule for the qualifications of powered lift, the first new category of civil aircraft since helicopters were introduced in the 1940s.

And through it all, our safety mission remains the same. After all, you have important work that must continue — managing air traffic across the country, making sure aircraft are safe, integrating new entrants, and planning for the future of aerospace.

As I prepare to hand over the reins, our mission continues and its importance has never been greater. Thank you for your service, your leadership, and your unwavering dedication to safety. Your work keeps people safe and our country strong.

Thank you,

Mike

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike", written in a cursive style.