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MIGRATORY BIRD
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
REPUBLICAN STEERING COMMITTEE



Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-3807

XR FAA-050830-008

September 27, 2005

FAA-051006-016

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Ms. Marion C. Blakey, Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Room 1022
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I am writing to ask that the Federal Aviation Administration take immediate action in grounding the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' (MHI) MU-2B series aircraft due to its shocking flight safety record.

This matter was recently brought to my attention by my constituent [REDACTED] husband, [REDACTED], was killed on May 14, 2004 when the MU-2 he was flying for Epps Aviation, a contractor for the Federal Reserve, crashed upon approach to Baltimore-Washington International Airport. The official investigation determined that [REDACTED] accident was caused by pilot error. I join both [REDACTED] widow [REDACTED] and his parents [REDACTED], in their belief that his death was caused not by pilot error, but rather a faulty design.

The MU-2 has an extremely poor safety record. In fact, since January 2004, 11 MU-2's have crashed resulting in the deaths of 11 individuals. Furthermore, since 1962 the MU-2 has crashed a total over 188 times killing 239 people. The MU-2 has a crash rate of 26% - an alarmingly troubling statistic.

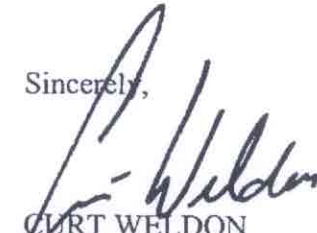
It has come to my attention that Congressmen Tom Tancredo and other members of the Colorado and Massachusetts delegations sent similar letters to your administration requesting that the MU-2 be grounded after accidents involving their constituents. I share my colleagues concerns that the horrible performance record of this aircraft warrants serious investigation on the part of the FAA and NTSB.

Understanding that the FAA's investigation into airworthiness of the MU-2 is in its early stages, I respectfully request that you keep my office apprised of the progress.

In the meantime, I once again urge in the strongest terms that the FAA and NTSB heed the serious warning signs and take action immediately by grounding all MU-2 pending completion of the investigation.

Thanks you for your attention to this matter. If I can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,



CLRT WELDON
Member of Congress