



*A bold voice for transportation workers*

November 19, 2012

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

As you consider your agenda for the final weeks of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, I ask that you schedule a vote to confirm Acting Administrator Michael Huerta as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). Mr. Huerta has demonstrated exemplary leadership of the FAA over the past year, and his timely confirmation will provide the continuity and stability that the aviation industry, its employees and the agency need at this critical time.

I have had the distinct pleasure of working with Mr. Huerta during his service in the FAA and previously during his tenure at the U.S. Department of Transportation. His breadth of experience on transportation and aviation issues in both the public and private sector make him uniquely qualified to address the enormous challenges facing the largest aviation system in the world. Since taking over as FAA's Acting Administrator, Mr. Huerta has proven to be an effective leader in tackling the important issues, both large and small, and has helped improve the safety and efficiency of the U.S. aviation system.

I also appreciate Mr. Huerta's willingness to foster an environment of labor-management cooperation with the FAA's vast workforce that has served both the agency and the goals of aviation safety exceedingly well. Mr. Huerta has also worked with private-sector aviation workers and their unions to improve both the safety and efficiency of the system.

This is a particularly important period for the FAA and the U.S. aviation industry, as we transition to the multi-billion dollar NextGen air traffic control system and shift from ground-based radar to state-of-the-art satellite technology. I believe that Mr. Huerta has the temperament, leadership skills, and experience to lead the nation through this transition, while remaining vigilant in pursuing the highest standards of safe air travel.

**Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO**

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Edward Wytkind, President / Larry I. Willis, Secretary-Treasurer



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The challenges and opportunities facing the FAA in the coming years will require steady and seasoned leadership. Mr. Huerta has proven that he is more than qualified for the job, and I ask that you work to quickly confirm his nomination as FAA Administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Wytkind". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the top and several horizontal strokes at the bottom.

Edward Wytkind

President

cc: The Honorable John D. Rockefeller IV, Chair, Senate Commerce, Science and  
Transportation Committee  
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair, Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security  
Subcommittee