Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 3, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to share our disappointment with the delay implementing a critical aviation safety rule.

In the wake of the tragic 2009 Colgan Air crash near Buffalo, NY, the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 (PL 111-216) required the new pilot flight and duty time rulemaking to be finalized by August 1, 2011.

The National Transportation Safety Board has included pilot fatigue on its Most Wanted List for more than twenty years. Pilot rest rules have not kept pace with changes in operating conditions, equipment, and technology. A final rule – which is based on science and which has been thoroughly vetted and reviewed – is inexplicably stalled.

A congressional mandate to issue a final rule is more than a month overdue. The traveling public and all those who rely on our nation's air transport system deserve one level of safety. It also is imperative that the reforms and safety improvements the families of the victims of the Colgan Air crash fought so hard for last year move forward without hindrance.

We urge you to complete any remaining review so a final rule can be issued as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress

Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

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Laura Richardson
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Betty Sutton
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