

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2011

The Honorable Eric Holder
United States Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We write you today to express our strong concern over recently disclosed emails between senior Colgan Air safety officials concerning the pilot of Continental Connection Flight 3407, which crashed in Clarence Center, New York in February 2009 and claimed 50 lives. These email conversations, in which Colgan expressed serious doubts over the pilot's qualifications, were never provided to National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators or produced during public hearings following the crash. Worse still, these communications appear to directly contradict statements made by those same Colgan officials just months later to the NTSB.

The families of the victims of Flight 3407 have fought for a resolution to the safety issues brought to light by the crash, and they deserve no less. We believe Colgan's failure to release these emails was disrespectful to the families, irresponsible to the flying public, and possibly criminal. Therefore, we request an investigation into whether Colgan's actions constituted the intentional withholding of information sought by a federal agency and whether such actions violated federal law.

We thank you for your attention to this important matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator



Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator



Kathleen C. Hochul
Member of Congress



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress



Louise M. Slaughter
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress