



March 21, 2023

The Honorable Maria
Cantwell Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office
Building Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,
Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office
Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

On behalf of the Arizona Pilots Association (APA) and fellow Arizona pilots, I am writing to advise you of APA's strong opposition to the nomination of Phil Washington to serve as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). APA was founded in 1970 as a non-profit organization to serve the interests and needs of general aviation in Arizona. Our members represent all aspects of aviation. From Airframe and Powerplant mechanics, to private pilots, instructor pilots and Airline Transport Pilots. Many volunteer on the FAA Safety Team (FAAST) to promote safety initiatives. Many are even employed by the FAA. To say our membership is heavily invested in the success of the FAA would be an understatement.

APA is highly concerned with Mr. Washington's nomination. Reviewing his resume, it is evident Mr. Washington lacks any relevant aviation or aeronautical experience. There is nothing to indicate he would understand the complex functions of the FAA, especially aviation safety. He is singularly unqualified to serve as FAA Administrator. The FAA has encountered significant challenges in recent years. These include: the highly public failure of oversight of design and manufacture of the Boeing 737 Max; the recent outage of the NOTAM system, a system that is decades out of date, causing a national ground stoppage of aircraft; the "Biplanes Inc." decision, which created unnecessary obstacles to thousands of pilots and flight instructors providing training; most recently a rash of "near misses" by airliners in busy terminal areas; as well as other indicators of an agency in turmoil. The legitimacy of the FAA has never been more fragile.

Rather than focusing on simply filling a role to meet a political gain, APA highly recommends identifying the most qualified individual possible. One who not only understands the complexity of aviation within this great nation and the tremendous impact it has on our economy, but who has also earned the respect of aviation professionals and our representatives in government. The FAA desperately needs a leader who has knowledge of the agency's functionality as well as its shortcomings, and has the aviation experience needed to move the agency forward. Mr. Washington has no demonstrated experience with or knowledge of aircraft or pilot certification, aviation safety systems, air traffic control, or any of the many other essential functions that the FAA is responsible for and that the traveling public expects and demands of our aviation infrastructure. The United States deserves better.

Regards,

Brian Schober

Brian Schober
President, Arizona Pilots Association