

October 2, 2023

Senator Maria Cantwell, Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Ted Cruz, Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science and  
Transportation  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: ET302 crash victims family members' endorsement of Michael Whitaker

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

We are writing to you as Ethiopian Airlines Flight 302 crash victim families. The ET302 crash, claimed the lives of 157 people on board a Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft on March 10, 2019. It was the second fatal crash of a new MAX aircraft within a five month period. The cause of the crash was Boeing's multi-year fraud on the FAA which concealed design defects, including but not limited to the MCAS system. We are still grieving for our loved ones, and we are still seeking justice and accountability for the preventable tragedy that took them away from us. We are also still advocating for reforms and improvements in the aviation industry, especially in the aircraft certification and production process, to ensure that no other family has to suffer what we have endured.

That is why we are writing to you today to express our support for the nomination of Michael G. Whitaker as the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). We believe that Mr. Whitaker's extensive and diverse experience in the aviation sector, both in the public and private domains, as well as his vision and commitment to advancing aviation safety, qualify him as a strong leader of the FAA with the ability restore public trust and confidence in its oversight and safety standards.

The FAA needs a stable and strong leader who can implement the necessary reforms and improvements that Congress has mandated in the Aircraft Certification, Safety, and Accountability Act (ACSAA). The ACSAA was landmark legislation that addresses many systemic failures and shortcomings that led to the development and approval of a fatally flawed aircraft, namely the Boeing 737 MAX. Mr. Whitaker can ensure that FAA has the right personnel and the right focus to guarantee that these provisions are implemented properly and effectively, in order to prevent another tragedy like ours from happening again. He can also scrutinize and address whether Boeing has reduced quality control inspections on the production line so as to reduce the quality and safety of aircraft assembly.

We also urge Mr. Whitaker and Commerce Committee members to recognize that the U.S. aviation sector must always strive to improve its safety performance and culture, and never rest on feeling that it is the safest in the world. The U.S. aviation sector has been shaken by several recent incidents that have exposed its vulnerabilities and weaknesses, such as failures of stabilizer trim motors and flight management computers on Boeing 737 MAX aircraft. These

incidents have raised serious concerns about the safety and security of air travel in the U.S., and have eroded public trust and confidence in the aviation industry.

We hope that Mr. Whitaker will address these issues with urgency and transparency, while including crash family members as core stakeholders, to ensure that safety is always the top priority - rather than mere lip service - in aviation. We believe he will honor our loved ones by making sure that their deaths were not in vain.

Therefore, we respectfully ask you to confirm Mr. Whitaker as soon as possible, so that he can start his important work at the helm of the FAA.

Sincerely,

Catherine Berthet, mother of Camille Geoffroy

Naoise Ryan, wife of Mick Ryan

Michael Stumo and Nadia Milleron, parents of Samya Rose Stumo

Ike and Susan Riffel, parents of Melvin and Bennett Riffel

Chris Moore, father of Danielle Moore

Javier De Luis, brother of Graziella de Luis y Ponce