



ASSOCIATION OF FLIGHT ATTENDANTS-CWA, AFL-CIO

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February 28, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell, Chair
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chair Cantwell,

The Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, AFL-CIO is urging swift confirmation of Phil Washington to serve as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

Mr. Washington will bring significant leadership experience and fresh eyes to the FAA at a critical time. His previous experience at the Regional Transportation District (RTD), Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority, Denver International Airport show that he can lead and manage large organizations. As recent incidents have demonstrated, and as we consider the FAA Reauthorization bill, we need to ensure there is a strong and permanent leader at the FAA.

Mr. Washington's rise in the military to the rank of Command Sergeant major in the U.S. Army should be seen as an asset, not a roadblock. It has been said that individuals who have the skill, talent, and tenacity to advance to the E-9 grade have managerial and motivational skills and problem-solving abilities. These are skills necessary to run a large-scale organization like the FAA, with key stakeholder input and expertise as well.

FAA Administrators Jane Garvey and Mike Huerta had little aviation background before becoming FAA Administrator, and their leadership at the agency is historic and widely recognized as extremely effective. Mr. Washington has the skills to do the same.

I spoke with Mr. Washington after he was nominated. I appreciated his effort to solicit our concerns and issues. Safety requires leadership, vigilance, and the entire aviation community fully engaged in our first and most important priority. Mr. Washington's record and engagement with stakeholders gives me tremendous confidence in his ability to lead us forward for the industry, our world partners, and the traveling public. I urge the Senate to confirm his nomination as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Sara Nelson
International President

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