

## **Supporters of Michael Whitaker to be Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration**

- Aerospace Industries Association
- Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association
- Airlines for America
- Air Line Pilots Association
- Air Medical Operators Association
- Airport Consultants Council
- Airports Council International – North America
- AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department
- Alaska Airlines
- Allied Pilots Association
- American Air Lines
- American Association of Airport Executives
- American Economic Liberties Project
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Archer
- Association of Flight Attendants-CWA
- Association of Professional Flight Attendants
- Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
- Commercial Drone Alliance
- Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW)
- Delta Air Lines
- DroneUp
- ET302 Families: 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
- Flight Safety Foundation
- GE Aerospace
- General Aviation Manufacturers Association
- Helicopter Association International
- International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers
- Joby Aviation
- Michael Huerta, Acting Secretary of Transportation, FAA Administrator, Acting FAA Administrator, Deputy FAA Administrator 2010-2018
- NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association
- National Air Carrier Association
- National Air Traffic Controllers Association, AFL-CIO
- National Air Transportation Association
- National Business Aviation Association
- National Consumers League
- Professional Aviation Safety Specialists
- Ray LaHood, Former U.S. Transportation Secretary
- Regional Airline Association
- Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Department of Transportation
- Small UAV Coalition
- Southwest Air Lines
- Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO
- U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- U.S. Rep. Sam Graves, Chair of the U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
- United Air Lines
- U.S. Travel Association

**Aerospace Industries Association (AIA):** “The Aerospace Industries Association welcomes the nomination of Mike Whitaker to serve as Administrator for the Federal Aviation Administration. AIA believes the FAA and the global aerospace system is best served with established leadership and a Senate-confirmed Administrator is integral to ensuring the FAA’s status as the gold standard for aviation safety. Mr. Whitaker’s previous experience at the FAA on key issues such as air traffic system modernization as well as safety priorities and his extensive background in emerging aviation technologies provides him with an opportunity to quickly address the priorities of the Department of Transportation and the aerospace industry.” [[Statement](#)]

**Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association, Mark Baker, President:** “The aviation industry has had a significant need for a permanent leader for more than a year, and I am happy that Michael has been nominated for the role,” said AOPA “Our close collaboration during his time as deputy administrator gave us the unmistakable sense that Michael knows aviation, he understands how the FAA operates, and he appreciates GA’s needs as a private pilot. I am confident that under Michael’s leadership, the FAA will address serious issues that have loomed over the agency and the aviation industry.” [[Statement](#)]

**Airlines for America (A4A), Nicholas E. Calio, President and CEO:** “We applaud the Administration’s action to submit a nomination to the U.S. Senate for FAA Administrator. The U.S. aviation industry is currently facing critical challenges and significant opportunities in management of the National Airspace System (NAS). As passenger travel continues to grow and Americans rely daily on cargo shipments, the system must keep up. New entrants, new technologies and innovations must be integrated into the system. A permanent, confirmed FAA Administrator is needed to provide leadership, stability and vision for the NAS, which is becoming more complex and more important every day. Michael Whitaker has extensive experience working on a range of priorities including NextGen modernization at both the FAA and at major airlines. He has a deep understanding of and appreciation for the collaborative partnership between industry and government that is necessary to ensure air travel remains the safest mode of transportation in the world. We urge expeditious consideration of this important nominee.” [[Statement](#)]

**Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA), Captain Jason Ambrosi, President:** “ALPA applauds the nomination of Michael Whitaker to lead the safest and most complex aviation system in the world. Michael understands that the most important safety feature on any aircraft is two, highly-trained and well-rested pilots, and the paramount need to protect current pilot safety training regulations. This nomination comes at a particularly critical time for the FAA. In order to maintain the world’s safest air transportation system, modernize outdated infrastructure, and keep passengers and crews safe, we need permanent, stable leadership that is safety-focused, and we look forward to his swift approval by the United States Senate.” [[Statement](#)]

**Air Medical Operators Association:** “The Air Medical Operators Association (AMOA) is encouraged by the Senate Commerce Committee’s action to advance the nomination of Michael Whitaker as Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator. AMOA encourages the full Senate to move promptly to confirm Mr. Whitaker. A confirmed administrator will help ensure that the FAA can advance aviation safety efforts. AMOA and its member companies remain committed to working with the FAA on continually raising the bar for air medical safety.”

**Airport Consultants Council, T.J. Schulz, President:** “We congratulate Michael Whitaker for his nomination to be FAA Administrator. Michael comes with years of experience and has served in various positions representing the diversity of the aviation industry. We need strong leadership as soon as possible to lead FAA given the importance of the pending FAA reauthorization, the recent growth in passenger travel, and the need to improve airfield safety.”

**Airports Council International – North America (ACI-NA), Kevin Burke, President and CEO:** “The aviation industry is navigating multiple challenges presented by our industry’s ongoing recovery, changing customer demands, and mounting infrastructure needs. As Washington grapples with important policy discussions around FAA reauthorization and reducing flight delays, the FAA needs permanent leadership at the top. Mike Whitaker brings immense experience in aviation—including his tenure as the FAA’s Deputy Administrator— that will allow him to engage immediately in important policy, regulatory, and infrastructure funding priorities we continue to confront. We encourage the Senate to prioritize Whitaker’s confirmation, and we look forward to continued partnership with FAA as everyone works to ensure a safe, secure, and efficient air travel experience for all passengers.” [\[Statement\]](#)

**AFL-CIO Transportation Trades Department (TTD), Greg Regan and Shari Semelsberger, President and Secretary-Treasurer:** “As the nation’s largest transportation labor federation, we welcome President Biden’s nomination of Michael Whitaker to lead the FAA. The agency is long overdue for permanent leadership, especially as our national airspace system faces urgent challenges such as flight disruptions, safety incidents, and staffing issues for air traffic controllers and other aviation safety professionals. The Administrator role is one of the most critical safety jobs in the Department of Transportation and must be filled by a permanent leader who can clear the significant backlog of overdue rule makings and provide stability as the previous five-year reauthorization of the FAA is set to expire this year.” [\[Statement\]](#)

**Alaska Airlines, Ben Minicucci, CEO:** “The FAA needs a Senate-confirmed Administrator to lead this essential agency, and I thank Chair Maria Cantwell and Ranking Member Ted Cruz for expeditiously moving forward Mr. Michael Whitaker’s nomination to be FAA Administrator and for the unanimous support he received today in the Senate Commerce Committee. I believe Mr. Whitaker’s years of experience will bring strong and steady leadership to the agency. Alaska Airlines looks forward to working collaboratively with him, once confirmed, and the entire FAA workforce.”

**Allied Pilots Association, Capt. Ed Sicher, President:** “Our National Airspace System faces unprecedented challenges, and we need a steady hand leading the FAA at this critical juncture. We believe Mike Whitaker is up to that task. Aggressive airline scheduling in response to post-pandemic travel demand – combined with lower overall levels of experience due to heightened turnover among pilots, air traffic controllers, mechanics, and other workers – have put enormous stress on the system,” he said. “Strong leadership is required to ensure that we preserve the margin of safety as commercial aviation navigates these challenges. Fortunately, Mr. Whitaker has the requisite experience.”

**American Air Lines:** “American is pleased to see Michael Whitaker nominated to be the next FAA Administrator and we look forward to supporting his nomination. During this critical time in aviation, it is essential that the FAA be led by a permanent administrator who understands the intricacies of the system. A former FAA Deputy Administrator who has spent decades in the aviation industry, Mr. Whitaker is eminently qualified for the role.” [9/7/23]

**American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE), Todd Hauptli, President and CEO:** “Mike has broad experience advancing the cause of aviation both inside and outside of government and is highly regarded for his leadership abilities, dedication to the industry, and willingness to tackle difficult challenges. I am grateful for his willingness to return to government service. Permanent leadership at the agency is long overdue.” [[Statement](#)]

**American Economic Liberties Project, William J. McGee, Senior Fellow for Aviation and Travel:** “The enormous responsibilities of the Administrator of the FAA cannot be overstated in respect to protecting the health and safety of passengers, employees, and the public at large by overseeing airlines, airports, aircraft manufacturers, personnel, and America’s entire aviation ecosystem,” said William J. McGee, Senior Fellow for Aviation and Travel at the American Economic Liberties Project. “It’s a huge job, and Economic Liberties believes Mr. Whitaker’s varied experience at the FAA and in the industry working in both the airline and drone sectors makes him very qualified to serve well in this role. We urge Congress to move quickly to approve his nomination.” [[Statement](#)]

**American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Emily Feenstra, Chief Policy and External Affairs Officer:** “Whitaker’s decades-long career in the aviation industry includes various private and public sector positions... We urge the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to approve Whitaker’s nomination in a timely manner.” [[Letter](#)]

**Archer:** “The Biden Administration’s decision to nominate Michael Whitaker to be the next Federal Aviation Administration Administrator signals a recognition that our country is poised to lead the onset of the advanced air mobility era with eVTOL aircraft preparing to enter the airspace in 2025. Mike’s extensive background in the world of aviation as a former Deputy Administrator at the FAA, industry executive, and pilot makes him well qualified to ensure the FAA can continue to maintain our country’s track record of global leadership on airspace safety, innovation, and regulatory excellence. Congratulations to the White House and Secretary Pete for continuing to put the U.S. at the forefront of innovation in aerospace.”

**Association of Flight Attendants-CWA (AFA-CWA), Sara Nelson, President:** “We congratulate Mike Whitaker on his nomination for FAA Administrator. We support the President’s decision and call on the Senate to move to swift confirmation. Our national air transportation system needs attention. Perhaps more than any other time in aviation history, it is urgent that we have a confirmed FAA Administrator. Whitaker has the experience to step into the role and immediately lead us forward.” [[Statement](#)]

**Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA):** “APFA congratulates Mike Whitaker on his nomination to lead the FAA, which has been without permanent leadership for over a year. Aviation is facing rapid growth and change since emerging from the pandemic, and we need strong leadership to ensure that the FAA’s oversight of our airspace and safety regulations is robust and timely. We appreciate Acting Administrators Polly Trottenberg and Billy Nolen for their public service, and we specifically applaud Mr. Nolen for signing the Flight Attendant 10-hour minimum rest rule into law. Mr. Whitaker has a background working for the FAA, which will be needed to address the challenges ahead, including the increase in runway incursions, ATC staffing levels, aging technology, and promptly filling the vacant high-level administrative positions. In addition, many aviation labor groups throughout the industry, including APFA, are in contract negotiations. APFA urges Congress to pass an FAA Reauthorization Bill soon to address aviation’s most pressing issues. If confirmed, we look forward to working with Mr. Whitaker to maintain the highest aviation safety standards.” [[Statement](#)]

**Association for Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International (AUVSI):** “At this critical moment when our national airspace system is becoming increasingly complex, Mike Whitaker is an exceptionally qualified choice to ensure the U.S. remains the aviation safety gold standard, manage the Agency and its 45,000 employees and enhance U.S. global aviation competitiveness. During his prior service as FAA Deputy Administrator and Chief NextGen officer, Whitaker proved himself a highly capable and productive federal official. We urge the U.S. Senate to begin Whitaker’s confirmation hearing without delay and to move toward a rapid confirmation.” [[Statement](#)]

“As he demonstrated at his nomination hearing, Mike Whitaker’s aviation experience and vision for the FAA make him a strong choice for the leadership role. AUVSI urges Senate leadership to bring Mr. Whitaker’s nomination for a floor vote without delay, and we urge Senators on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of his nomination.” [[Statement after Committee Vote](#)]

**Commercial Drone Alliance, Lisa Ellman, Executive Director:** “The Commercial Drone Alliance is grateful that the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation today unanimously voted Michael Whitaker out of Committee as the next FAA Administrator. We urge a swift confirmation by the full Senate. Mr. Whitaker’s leadership will come at a pivotal time as the U.S. looks to fully harness the significant societal benefits of commercial drones and regain its position as a global leader in advanced aviation. Mr. Whitaker’s background in advanced aviation positions him to take action on long-overdue regulatory items like enabling beyond visual line of sight drone operations, and we look forward to working together to swiftly and safely advance these initiatives.”

**Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), Sean Donohue, CEO:** “Today, the White House announced that Michael Whitaker will be nominated to serve as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). I have worked with Mike and seen his effective and consensus-building leadership style. His airline experience, coupled with his time as FAA Deputy Administrator, bodes well for quickly addressing FAA and industry priorities. On behalf of Dallas Fort Worth International Airport (DFW), we look forward to a quick confirmation to fill this critical role.”

**Delta Air Lines:** “The FAA is recognized as a world leader in aviation safety and innovation, but is long overdue for permanent leadership. As a former FAA Deputy Administrator with an extensive background in commercial aviation and aviation safety, Delta is pleased to support Michael Whitaker as the next FAA Administrator. We look forward to continued collaboration with the FAA to ensure that commercial aviation remains the safest mode of transportation in the world.”

**DroneUp, Tom Walking, CEO:** “DroneUp would like to express its strong support for the confirmation of Michael Whitaker as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). As the world continues to embrace and utilize drone technology, it is critical that the FAA continue their important work on ensuring America's continued global leadership in aviation. Mr. Whitaker's 30+ years of experience, both at the FAA and in industry, make him uniquely qualified to handle this challenge. As a leader in efforts to establish drone package delivery as the next level of customer service, DroneUp very much looks forward to working with Mr. Whitaker. We commend the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee for their bipartisan approval of his nomination, and urge the Senate to quickly confirm him.”

**ET302 Families: 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:** “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.” [\[Letter\]](#)

**Flight Safety Foundation, Dr. Hassan Shahidi, President and CEO:** “As a member of the Flight Safety Foundation Board of Governors, Mike Whitaker has brought exceptional expertise and an industry-wide perspective that have been invaluable in shaping and guiding our mission to enhance global aviation safety. Mike’s deep understanding of aviation, combined with his strategic vision, has been a tremendous asset to the Foundation and a driving force behind our pursuit of excellence in aviation safety. Mike is an excellent choice for FAA administrator.” [9/7/23]

**GE:** “GE Aerospace applauds the nomination of Michael Whitaker as FAA Administrator and urge the Senate to act swiftly in a bipartisan manner to confirm him. With experience across the aviation sector, Mike will bring strong and steady leadership at a time when the industry is experiencing unprecedented demand and tremendous technological breakthroughs, helping ensure America’s leading role on the world stage regarding aviation safety and innovation.” [9/7/23]

**General Aviation Manufacturers Association (GAMA), Pete Bunce, President and CEO:** “The FAA, the civil aviation industry and the American flying-public deserve a leader with experience in managing large organizations and an aviation background to develop an aviation system that is safer, more efficient and technologically advanced. We are pleased to see that the Biden Administration has nominated Mike Whitaker, who we feel possesses the leadership skills, management experience and aviation knowledge needed to lead the FAA. Having worked with Mr. Whitaker in his previous role as FAA Deputy Administrator, we are confident that his intimate knowledge of how the agency functions and interfaces with the Department of Transportation, Congress and the industry will improve his ability to navigate the challenges now facing the FAA. We also believe that Mr. Whitaker and Katie Thomson, the recently appointed Deputy Administrator, will be a strong leadership team for the agency. GAMA supports the confirmation of Mr. Whitaker to provide needed stability and direction for the FAA during this transformative time for aviation.” [\[Statement\]](#)

**Helicopter Association International (HAI), James Viola, President and CEO:** “Mike’s 30 years of aviation policy experience gives him the knowledge and skillset to effectively lead the FAA. I worked closely with Mike during my tenure overseeing general aviation at the FAA and, from what I saw, I am confident that he is the right person to lead the agency at a time when aviation— particularly vertical aviation—is evolving at such a rapid pace. [...] HAI is confident

that Mike will provide that leadership. Mike is the leader the FAA needs at this time, and we fully support his nomination.” [\[Statement\]](#)

**Joby Aviation:** “The FAA is the most respected aviation regulatory body and the gold standard around the world. Mike Whitaker’s background as a pilot, former Deputy Administrator, and industry thought leader makes him a very qualified and forward-thinking choice by the Biden Administration. We’re confident that Mike Whitaker will champion safety and operational excellence while advocating for continued American leadership in innovative aerospace technologies.” [\[Statement\]](#)

**The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAM), Richie Johnsen, Air Transport Territory General Vice President:** “As the largest airline union in the United States, the IAM is confident that Mike Whitaker will put air transport workers at the forefront of decision-making at the FAA. I commend Mr. Whitaker for reaching out to the IAM to have meaningful dialogue about the issues facing our more than 100,000 airline members. Together, we are committed to work together to protect air transport workers against passenger assault, address foreign repair station policy, tackle industry understaffing, and more. After a year-and-a-half of delays, we urge the U.S. Senate to move swiftly to confirm Mr. Whitaker as the next administrator of the FAA.” [\[Statement\]](#)

**Michael Huerta, Acting Secretary of Transportation, FAA Administrator, Acting FAA Administrator, Deputy FAA Administrator 2010-2018:** “As a talented and experienced leader, an aviation professional and a pilot, Mike Whitaker has the background and qualifications needed to lead and direct the agency at this critical time. He recognizes the value of collaboration between the FAA, the industry it regulates, and the people that work in it to ensure the highest level of safety for the traveling public. The FAA is a large and complex organization whose mission is to provide the safest, most efficient aerospace system in the world. It has done its job well, and the U.S. represents the gold-standard in aviation. Now, the agency and must deal with rapid growth, and the need to establish policies and standards for new innovations, new entrants and the future evolution of this important industry.” [9/7/23]

**NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association, Todd Schlekeway, President and CEO:** “NATE welcomes today’s news advancing Michael Whitaker’s nomination through the committee process. NATE collaborates with the FAA closely on issues ranging from agency tower site review timelines, tower site obstruction lighting and marking requirements, the advancement of commercial drone utilization, and member contractor onboarding processes for companies who do work with the agency. The Association encourages the full U.S. Senate to vote on Mr. Whitaker’s nomination promptly to fill this current void in leadership at the agency.” [\[Statement\]](#)

**National Air Carrier Association (NACA), George Novak, President and CEO:** “NACA commends the White House for nominating Michael Whitaker to be the next Federal Aviation Administration Administrator. As a [former commercial airline] pilot and deputy administrator of the FAA, Mr. Whitaker is extremely well-positioned to provide the leadership the agency needs to address several long-standing challenges facing the airline industry. Modernizing the



nation's air traffic control (ATC) system, ensuring robust air traffic controller staffing levels – particularly in Florida, to reduce congestion and delays – and addressing recent safety issues, including a rise in runway incursions, are all critical issues needing immediate attention. We look forward to working collaboratively with Mr. Whitaker, DOT leadership, and other aviation stakeholders to ensure that we continue to have the safest, most efficient ATC system in the world.” [[Statement](#)]

**National Air Traffic Controllers Association, AFL-CIO (NATCA), Rich Santa, President:** “The National Air Traffic Controllers Association, AFL-CIO, (NATCA) congratulates former Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Deputy Administrator and Chief NextGen Officer, Michael Whitaker, on his nomination by President Joe Biden to be the next administrator of the FAA. NATCA urges the Senate to perform its constitutional duty to provide advice and consent and move this nomination forward with all due diligence. A permanent Administrator committed to continued collaboration must be confirmed to ensure FAA addresses its longstanding and ongoing controller staffing crisis and more recent safety incidents. NATCA looks forward to working with Mr. Whitaker to address the FAA’s pressing challenges, from staffing and training, to runway safety, to modernization of technology and infrastructure, to the safe and efficient integration of new users into the National Airspace System.” [[Statement](#)]

**National Air Transportation Association (NATA), Curt Castagna, President and CEO:** “NATA is pleased to see the nomination of Mike Whitaker to become the next FAA Administrator at a time when the agency desperately needs calm, level-headed, permanent leadership. Mike’s proven track record in roles as Deputy Administrator and within multiple sectors of the aviation industry make him well suited to lead the agency. Whitaker’s direction of key NextGen initiatives, experience as a pilot, extensive knowledge of the business of aviation, and focus on the evolution of our air system are assets that will serve both the aviation community and the agency well as we move forward safely and efficiently. Swift confirmation of Michael Whitaker as FAA administrator is crucial in this time of transition, and we thank the Administration for this important step toward securing a permanent FAA leader.” [[Statement](#)]

**National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), Ed Bolton, President and CEO:** “Mike Whitaker has long been an outspoken aviation safety advocate and champion of innovation in the industry, who demonstrated during his time as Deputy Administrator at the FAA that he is a proven leader who delivers results. We enthusiastically support his confirmation as FAA administrator.” [[Statement](#)]

“We enthusiastically welcome the approval by the committee and fully support his confirmation by the full Senate as FAA administrator.” [[Statement after Committee Vote](#)]

**National Consumers League, Sally Greenberg, Chief Executive Officer:** “The FAA has been without a permanent administrator for too long. Without strong leadership, the agency will struggle to fulfill critical consumer protection mandates, including Congress’s 2018 directive that the agency set minimum seat sizes on airplanes. The Senate should act to restore the full strength of the Administration and confirm Mr. Whitaker as FAA Administrator.” [[Statement](#)]

**Professional Aviation Safety Specialists (PASS):** “PASS looks forward to hearing from Mr. Whitaker at his confirmation hearing on the many challenges facing the FAA and his plans for leading the agency in the coming months and years. The union looks to build on its relationship with Mr. Whitaker, first established when he served as deputy administrator during the Obama administration. He brings a wealth of experience to the table—from his previous experience at the FAA, in the aviation industry and as a private pilot.” [[Statement](#)]

**Ray LaHood, Former U.S. Transportation Secretary:** “I have personally worked with Mike and believe he is the right leader to take the helm at the FAA... If confirmed, Mike will bring industry and government together to address current challenges at the FAA and focus on needed reforms to ensure the United States remains the global standard in aviation.” [[Letter](#)]

**Regional Airline Association (RAA), Faye Malarkey Black, CEO:** “We believe Michael is the kind of ‘roll up your sleeves’ leader that FAA needs to meet this moment. [[Statement](#)]

**Secretary Pete Buttigieg, U.S. Department of Transportation:** “America needs a confirmed FAA Administrator and Mike Whitaker is the right leader for the job. He knows aviation, he knows safety, he knows the FAA and he knows how to manage and modernize large organization. Mike has thirty years of experience in aviation in both the public and private sector, and he has put that experience to work across the aviation community to get big things done. Partisan political games must not get in the way of this process – the flying public has waited too long for a permanent leader at the FAA. The Senate should act quickly to confirm Mike Whitaker.” [[Statement](#)]

**Southwest Air Lines, Bob Jordan, President and CEO:** “Following today’s Senate confirmation hearing of Michael Whitaker – the President’s nominee to be the next FAA Administrator – and after visiting with Mike a few weeks ago, I am very encouraged that the FAA should soon have an experienced and highly capable leader for the next five years. On behalf of Southwest Airlines, I strongly support Mike’s nomination and respectfully urge the United States Senate to confirm him expeditiously. The FAA needs a permanent, confirmed FAA Administrator who can provide leadership, stability, and vision for the agency.”

**Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO, John Samuelson, International President:** “As the largest airline union in the U.S. with members in nearly every frontline job across 17 carriers and multiple airline contract service providers, the TWU looks forward to working with Mr. Whitaker once he is confirmed in this new role as FAA administrator.”

**U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Neil Bradley, Executive Vice President and Chief Policy Officer:** “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce supports the nomination of Michael Whitaker as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and we urge the Committee to report the nomination to the full Senate. Mr. Whitaker possesses the experience necessary – including a stint as deputy administrator and senior roles within the aviation industry – to take on the many challenges facing the FAA, such as the shortage of aerospace workers, the integration

of new entrants, persistent organizational issues, and flight delays stemming from again aviation infrastructure.”

**U.S. Rep. Sam Graves, Chairman, U.S. House Transportation & Infrastructure**

**Committee:** “[Mr. Whitaker] has the experience and temperament to be an effective leader at a time when the agency faces many challenges and the aviation system is under continued stress. The safety and success of our Nation’s aviation system depends on long-needed stability at the FAA and on Congress finishing its work on a long-term reauthorization. Hopefully Mr. Whitaker’s nomination is a step in the right direction while we wait for the Senate to resume its reauthorization work.” [[Statement](#)]

**Small UAV Coalition:** “Mr. Whitaker has extensive experience in the aviation industry, working for both legacy and nascent technology firms. Having previously served as Deputy Administrator, he is expected to hit the ground running once confirmed. The Small UAV Coalition is optimistic that Mr. Whitaker will provide the leadership to advance several much-needed drone rulemaking projects while also addressing inefficiencies and delays that have slowed the integration of drones into the national airspace system.” [[Letter](#)]

**United Air Lines:** “Now more than ever, the FAA needs strong leadership. We are pleased that Michael Whitaker has been nominated for this critical role and look forward to working with him to improve our aviation system for our employees and customers. Mike has deep aviation expertise and a solid reputation as a problem solver. We urge the U.S. Senate to move swiftly on his confirmation process.” [9/7/23]

**U.S. Travel Association, Tori Emerson Barnes, Executive Vice President Public Affairs and**

**Policy:** “As the leading voice of the travel industry, the U.S. Travel Association supports the nomination of Michael G. Whitaker to be the next Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), and we urge his swift confirmation. Mr. Whitaker provides all these qualities and more, having spent over 30 years of his career in various leadership roles in the aviation industry and the federal government.” [[Letter](#)]

“The committee’s strong bipartisan vote to advance Mike Whitaker as FAA administrator is proof positive that a decision is finally within reach for this critical position, which has remained vacant for more than 18 months. Given the breadth of his credentials, his deep support across aviation and travel industry groups, and the great needs to modernize our nation’s air system to meet traveler demand, U.S. Travel urges the Senate to act swiftly to affirm Mr. Whitaker’s nomination to lead the FAA.” [[Statement after the Committee vote](#)]