



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

*Proudly Representing the **Flight Attendants** of American Airlines*

Office of the President

March 15, 2023

Senator Maria Cantwell
Chair
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
127A Russell
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), the independent Flight Attendant Union proudly representing the 25,000 Flight Attendants of American Airlines, urges you to proceed with the confirmation of Phil Washington for FAA Administrator.

The aviation industry is facing unprecedented challenges today as the number of "close calls" and fundamental system failures continue to mount. The Federal Aviation Administration is a massive and complex agency that has been without a Senate-confirmed leader for over a year, exactly at the time when our aviation system appears stretched beyond its limits. Virtually every week a new incident occurs that underscores the need for permanent and consistent leadership at the top of the FAA.

As the National President of APFA, I also know the issues that Flight Attendants are dealing with every day, including the threats and physical assault from passengers. While the Zero-Tolerance Policy is absolutely a necessary first-step, it's clear that more is needed to deter this type of behavior. We look forward to working with a permanent FAA Administrator to ensure that disruptive passengers do not compromise the safety of our flights.

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Mr. Washington brings successful leadership and management skills with large, complex transportation organizations. His leadership has been demonstrated in Denver at the nation's third busiest airport and other equally complex transit systems as well. He understands what is needed to maintain the safest aviation system in the world.

As the FAA Acting Administrator Billy Nolan convenes the Safety Summit today, it is critical that the Committee on Commerce move ahead immediately with the confirmation of Mr. Washington. Please put the safety of the flying public first by moving this nomination forward.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Hedrick". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Julie Hedrick
APFA National President