

March 15, 2023

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

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

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz,

I am pleased and honored to write this letter supporting President Biden's nomination of Phillip A. Washington, CEO of the Denver International Airport, to the important post of Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation. I have known Mr. Washington for a number of years and have observed him to be highly competent, a skilled manager and an individual of high integrity. I am confident that he will be a true leader among the capable team led by the Department of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg to address the myriad aviation, transportation and logistic needs of the traveling and shipping public, ensuring that America remains the most mobile society in the world. Our very democracy, economy and quality of life depend upon it.

To be sure, Mr. Washington, if he is honored to be confirmed by the Senate, will come to the helm of the FAA at a critical time. The growing need for air traffic control modernization began during my years as Secretary and continues to this day. And the thoughtful regulation of the aviation industry remains a constant need, with passenger safety as the number one priority – the North Star – of FAA responsibilities.

In addition, I know that Mr. Washington will be responsive to the concerns of Congress, as members seek to ensure that the agency and the Administration are responsive to consumer issues and concerns, challenges of the moment and the long-term needs of the aviation industry, especially in light of the growing popularity and utility of unmanned aerial vehicles.

In conclusion, I have every confidence that Mr. Washington is the right person, with the right skills, knowledge, acumen and demeanor, to lead the FAA in this time of challenge, change and untold opportunity. With this in mind, I offer my support of his confirmation as FAA Administrator without reservation.

Sincerely,

Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP

  
Rodney E. Slater