



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD'S LARGEST PILOTS UNION • WWW.ALPA.ORG

1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20036 • 703-689-2270 • 888-FLY-ALPA

July 19, 2017

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 57,000 airline pilots of the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), I write to inform you of our support for H.R. 2997, the 21st Century Aviation Innovation, Reform, and Reauthorization Act, and urge you to vote in favor of this bill when it comes before the House. The AIRR Act promotes aviation safety and helps level the playing field for American aviation workers.

ALPA supports this bill first and foremost because it maintains aviation safety by upholding training, qualification, and experience requirements for first-year airline pilots. Since Congress unanimously mandated improved pilot training and qualification requirements in 2010 following a series of tragic regional airline accidents, there have been *no* fatalities on U.S. passenger airlines. This safety record was written in blood and we applaud the House transportation leaders who recognize the importance of these rules to sustaining our nation's unparalleled safety record. We urge the full House to support our efforts to keep flying safe.

Also important, the bill includes a provision that protects American aviation workers from unfair foreign competition. H.R. 2997 will prevent flag-of-convenience foreign airlines from undermining fair competition by incorporating the Flags of Convenience Don't Fly Here Act. This provision defends U.S. aviation workers against foreign carriers' shopping the globe for cheap labor while upholding the letter and spirit of our Open Skies agreement with the European Union. This is a critically important pro-worker provision that has broad bipartisan support.

We have long called for additional regulations to ensure the safe shipment of lithium batteries. The threat of fire from lithium batteries is proven. As you know, the FAA has banned certain products with lithium batteries (Galaxy Note 7, hoverboards, e-cigarettes, etc.). However, millions of tons of lithium batteries are still carried as cargo. H.R. 2997 requires the U.S. Department of Transportation to update lithium battery transport rules by harmonizing with international standards adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

The bill improves aviation security by mandating secondary cockpit barriers on new aircraft. These barriers are a cost effective, common-sense solution to the threat of a cockpit

breach when the reinforced door is opened in flight. This, too, is a bipartisan safety and security issue. Further, the bill also addresses aircraft cybersecurity.

The bill promotes safety because it improves the system by which safety data reported by flight crew to more quickly identify and address threats before accidents occur. The bill also authorizes long-standing pilot assistance programs.

We believe air service is an integral component of our transportation network and H.R. 2997 supports the Essential Air Service (EAS) program which enables small and rural communities to connect to the world and vice versa.

As a user of the system, I can confirm that the ATC reform proposal is safe. ALPA supports the goal of restructuring our nation's air traffic control system in order to provide the predictable, long-term funding needed to continue modernizing the system.

The U.S. is experiencing the safest period of air travel in history. H.R. 2997 furthers the safety of our aviation system and strengthens the position of the men and women who support and operate it. We respectfully ask that you support this bill when it comes before the full House and oppose any amendments that would change pilot training and qualifications or weaken provisions in the bill that promote safety or worker protections.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Canoll', written in a cursive style.

Tim Canoll
President