H.R. 4 | IMPROVING AMERICA'S COMPETITIVENESS:
Streamlining and Reforming the FAA Certification and Regulatory Processes

The U.S. aviation and aerospace manufacturing industry is a critical sector of our economy, contributing billions of dollars and supporting millions of good paying jobs.

All aircraft and aviation products are subject to FAA certification prior to their sale and use. Consequently, the FAA's certification processes have a significant impact on our Nation's ability to manufacture, innovate, market, and operate the most advanced, safest products. Today, as U.S. aviation manufacturers face intensifying competition from manufacturers in other countries, such as China, France, Brazil, and Canada, unnecessary delays in the FAA's certification processes create a significant disadvantage in an increasingly competitive global market.

The FAA bureaucracy and red tape in the certification of aviation technologies not only stifle domestic innovation and undermine our competitiveness, they put American jobs at risk.

For example, according to a manufacturing association, one company calculated in 2016 that a delay on a major aircraft certification project cost it approximately $10 million each month of delay. Another reported that it took a charter company that moved an aircraft to a different FAA region five weeks, $25,000 in costs, and $200,000 in forgone revenue to get the aircraft placed on their operating certificate.

While the United States has been the gold standard in global aviation, we are quickly losing our lead. Other countries view their aerospace and aviation manufacturing sectors as economic engines and support them with favorable policies.

The FAA must continue to ensure the safety of the system, but the agency's certification and regulatory processes must become more streamlined than those currently in place. Under the status quo, our lead in the aviation industry will continue to dwindle, and may vanish, just as in other industries we once led during the last century.

The FAA Reauthorization Act:

- Streamlines the FAA certification process to ensure U.S. companies can compete globally and get their products to market on time.
- Creates a "Safety Oversight and Certification Advisory Committee" (SOCAC). The SOCAC will:
  - » Closely collaborate with industry to streamline the FAA's certification and regulatory processes.
  - » Work with American manufacturers to ensure that the FAA can meet the future needs of the aviation industry and allow our manufacturers to remain competitive in the global market place.
  - » Establish clear performance objectives and metrics, and national goals by which Congress and interested parties can better measure the progress of the FAA's streamlining efforts.
- Improves FAA workforce training and development for FAA inspectors and engineers.
- Establishes mechanisms through which manufacturers can benefit from consistent regulatory interpretations among FAA regional offices and headquarters, and resolve disagreements and inconsistencies.
- Enables manufacturers to fully utilize their delegated certification authorities, leveraging their resources and expertise, and allowing the FAA to focus on new and unique technologies, products, and activities.
- Addresses delays in foreign certification of U.S. products abroad and requires the FAA to promote U.S. aerospace standards abroad.
- Allows the use of efficient rulemaking processes to help streamline regulatory reform efforts for the commercial space transportation sector.