



Dear Representative,

On behalf of the more than 9,500 men and women of the Southwest Airlines Pilots Association, I write to express our support for H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018. This comprehensive bill will put our National Airspace System on a glide-path to modernization while taking important steps to ensure fair competition in the international aviation industry. Despite our opposition to Section 744 -- Single-Piloted Commercial Cargo Aircraft study -- SWAPA supports its passage and encourages you to vote in favor of the legislation.

As our airline develops a larger footprint in international markets, Open Skies Agreements are essential to establishing the rules and liberalizing access. To that end, our international aviation agreements cannot be a one-way street. All carriers operating under the rules of our Air Transport Agreements (ATA) must be in compliance with those rules. For that reason, SWAPA is especially supportive of Section 530 of H.R. 4, which will require the U.S. Department of Transportation to ensure that any foreign carrier seeking to operate in the U.S. must be in full compliance with our ATA. This important provision will keep the playing field level and prevent unfair competition from carriers seeking to skirt the rules.

SWAPA is also happy to see that H.R. 4 contains many provisions to enhance aviation safety and security. Notably, the bill enhances the Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP) by requiring the automatic acceptance of ASAP reports, speeding up the safety-critical program. The bill also establishes a Lithium Ion Battery Safety Advisory Committee to provide to enhance the safety of the shipment of lithium batteries by air. The bill also establishes a rulemaking committee to review and provide recommendations on pilot rest and duty rules for pilots operating in part 135 operations.

Workers in the U.S. aviation industry deserve the level playing field created by the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, which requires all air carriers seeking to operate in our airspace to play by the same rules. The flying public also deserves the safe and secure travel enhancements included in H.R. 4. For these reasons, the men and women of SWAPA hope that you will support H.R. 4 when it comes before you on the House floor.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jon Weaks", written over a horizontal line.

Captain Jon Weaks
President
Southwest Airlines Pilots Association