August 5, 2022

The Honorable Shalanda D. Young
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Eisenhower Executive Office Building
1650 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20503

Dear Director Young:

In 2018, Congress passed the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization law, which gave the Secretary of Transportation 30 days to modify its final rule on flight attendant duty period limitations and rest requirements to ensure a flight attendant scheduled to a duty period of 14 hours or less is given a scheduled rest period of at least 10 consecutive hours.1 Almost four years after bipartisan passage of the law, the final rule is still not complete. This significant, prolonged delay is unacceptable and presents continued risk to aviation safety. We urge you to finalize this critical health and safety rule now.

Flight attendants are aircraft cabin first responders—highly trained professionals who must react at a moment’s notice to a complex, dynamic, and often hazardous working environment. Congress mandated increased irreducible rest for flight attendants after more than three decades of advocacy from flight attendants, numerous studies commissioned by Congress that confirm the prevalence of flight attendant fatigue, independent studies by academic institutions that confirm the health risks of interrupted or lack of sleep for flight attendants, and implementation of pilot rest and duty rules that included a 10-hour minimum rest for passenger operations.2

Although the language in the 2018 FAA reauthorization law is clear, concise, and straightforward, the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was not published until November 2,

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2021. As expected, the NPRM implements the requirements of the 2018 FAA reauthorization law without any changes. The NPRM comment period closed on January 3, 2022. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), FAA, and OMB have had ample time to review the 808 comments received and issue a final rule.

Flight attendant fatigue is real. The coronavirus pandemic and return to pre-pandemic service levels have only exacerbated the safety gap with long duty days, short nights, and often combative conditions on planes. The past several months of airline operational issues make clear that flight attendants need rest, and the DOT and FAA need to implement the 2018 Congressional mandate.

We urge you to prioritize this rulemaking and work to complete the final rule as soon as possible. Please respond by August 19, 2022, with an update on the progress of the rule. We would also appreciate a weekly update until the final rule is issued.

Thank you for your consideration of this urgent request. Should any questions arise, please contact Brian Bell with the Aviation Subcommittee majority staff at Brian.Bell@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

PETER A. DeFAZIO  RICK LARSEN
Chair Chair
Subcommittee on Aviation

/s/  /s/
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON  EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
Member of Congress Member of Congress

/s/  /s/
GRACE F. NAPOLITANO  STEVE COHEN
Member of Congress Member of Congress

4 Id.
5 Id.
6 See id.
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/s/  
ALBIO SIRES  
Member of Congress

/s/  
JOHN GARAMENDI  
Member of Congress

/s/  
HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
ANDRÉ CARSON  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DINA TITUS  
Member of Congress

/s/  
SEAN PATRICK MALONEY  
Member of Congress

/s/  
JARED HUFFMAN  
Member of Congress

/s/  
JULIA BROWNLEY  
Member of Congress

/s/  
FREDERICA S. WILSON  
Member of Congress

/s/  
DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.  
Member of Congress

/s/  
ALAN S. LOWENTHAL  
Member of Congress

/s/  
MARK DESAULNIER  
Member of Congress

/s/  
STEPHEN F. LYNCH  
Member of Congress

/s/  
SALUD O. CARBAJAL  
Member of Congress

/s/  
ANTHONY G. BROWN  
Member of Congress

/s/  
TOM MALINOWSKI  
Member of Congress

/s/  
GREG STANTON  
Member of Congress

/s/  
COLIN Z. ALLRED  
Member of Congress
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/s/     /s/  
SHARICE L. DAVIDS  JESÚS G. GARCÍA  
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

/s/     /s/  
CHRIS PAPPAS  CONOR LAMB  
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

/s/     /s/  
SETH MOULTON  JAKE Auchincloss  
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

/s/     /s/  
CAROLYN BOURDEAUX  KAIALI'I KAHELE  
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

/s/     /s/  
MARILYN STRICKLAND  NIKEMA WILLIAMS  
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

/s/     /s/  
MARIE NEWMAN  TROY A. CARTER  
Member of Congress  Member of Congress

/s/     
SHEILA CHERFILUS-McCORMICK  
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation  
Acting Administrator Billy Nolen, Federal Aviation Administration  
Acting Director Dominic Mancini, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget  
Director Brian Deese, National Economic Council, Executive Office of the President