



Office of the Chairman

## National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

July 20, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster  
Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
United States House of Representatives  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

Thank you for the inclusion of several important provisions in H.R. 636, the *FAA Extension, Safety, and Security Act of 2016*. On behalf of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), I am grateful for your continued support of our critical mission to advance and support the continued improvement of transportation safety of the American public.

The NTSB has long believed that air carriers should be able to better monitor pilot training and to identify pilots who have a history of unsatisfactory performance in order to determine suitability for hiring. I appreciate the inclusion of section 2101, which requires the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to complete the pilot records database that was required by the Airline Safety and FAA Extension Act of 2010 by April 30, 2017. In addition, the NTSB has long recommended that FAA ensure that flight crews receive better training in monitoring skills, understanding of automatic flight control systems, and responding to unexpected events. Section 2102, which requires the FAA to verify that commercial air carriers train pilots on properly monitoring cockpit automation systems, supports our recommendations in these areas. Finally, NTSB investigations have revealed a continued trend of survivable helicopter crashes in which a post-crash fire resulted in thermal injuries and fatalities. Thank you for the inclusion of section 2105, which recognizes this concern and requires the FAA to evaluate and update the standards governing crash resistance for fuel systems in helicopters within one year.

Again, thank you for your continued support to advance transportation safety by the inclusion of these and other significant provisions. Please do not hesitate to contact me or Mr. Christopher Wallace, Director of Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 314-6007 or [Christopher.Wallace@ntsb.gov](mailto:Christopher.Wallace@ntsb.gov), if we can be of any assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Christopher A. Hart  
Chairman