

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster, Ranking Member DeFazio, Chairman LoBiondo and Ranking Member Larsen:

We are writing today to request the inclusion of language in the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) reauthorization, which will strengthen FAA oversight of foreign repair stations. Specifically, we ask for the inclusion of language that will set a date certain for completion of the rule governing alcohol and controlled substance testing at Part 145 repair stations.

As you know, Section 308 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act required the FAA to promulgate a proposed rule mandating alcohol and controlled substances testing for all Part 145 repair station employees responsible for safety sensitive maintenance functions on Part 121 air carrier aircraft. In March 2014, the FAA published an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) on this subject, but has yet to take any actions since closing the comment period in July of that year. While this delayed ANPRM was a step in the right direction towards ensuring that employees at Part 145 stations are held to the same high levels of safety and professionalism as repair station employees in the United States, the lack of progress in completing this rulemaking is concerning, especially as the FAA moves to lift its moratorium on certifying new Part 145 stations. Safety is paramount in the aviation industry and we must work to ensure that the FAA not only sets the standard, but holds others to it.

Until this rulemaking is completed, employees at foreign repair stations will continue to work with minimal to no drug and alcohol testing. Consequently, we urge you to include language in the upcoming FAA reauthorization that will mandate completion of this rule within six months of the legislation's enactment. Thank for your consideration.

Sincerely,


RYAN COSTELLO
Member of Congress


DAN LIPINSKI
Member of Congress


LOU BARLETTA
Member of Congress