



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

Nick J. Rahall, III
Ranking Member

September 10, 2013

Christopher P. Bertram, Staff Director

James H. Zoia, Democrat Staff Director

The Honorable Calvin L. Scovel III
Inspector General
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
West Building - W70-300
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Inspector General Scovel:

Safety is the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) highest priority. As recent accidents and incidents over the last several months clearly show, a proactive and forward-looking approach to enhancing safety is still needed. Earlier this year, your office reported on FAA and industry efforts to enhance airline safety in response to the *Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010* (the "Airline Safety Act" - P.L. 111-216).

Your report found that while important progress is being made, FAA has experienced delays in issuing rules required by the Airline Safety Act to provide more realistic pilot training and develop better processes for managing safety risks. Most notably, you cautioned that FAA lacked a clear, long-term strategy for transitioning to a new electronic pilot records database, which would provide a single, comprehensive history of a pilot's training, qualifications and proficiency.

Since your report, FAA continues to make progress and implement provisions of the Airline Safety Act. In July 2013, FAA issued a rule that substantially raised airline pilot qualifications—this is a significant achievement for the FAA and should provide pilots with a stronger foundation of knowledge and experience before they fly for commercial airlines. Despite these advances, we are concerned about FAA's lack of progress on the development of a pilot records database that will enhance the screening of newly hired pilots. Therefore, we request that your office continue to monitor and examine FAA and industry's progress in implementing the new database of pilot records mandated by the Airline Safety Act.

Sincerely,


FRANK A. LOBIONDO
Member of Congress


RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress