

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 28, 2026

The Honorable Bryan Bedford  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Bedford,

We appreciate the FAA's continued efforts to ensure the safety and reliability of the U.S. aviation system. As Members of Congress committed to protecting both the traveling public and the skilled American workers who keep our aircraft flying, we value the agency's role in upholding high safety standards across the global aviation network.

We write today to follow up on bipartisan provisions included in the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 to strengthen oversight of foreign repair stations and ensure a uniform level of safety and accountability across all FAA-certified facilities. These provisions reflect bipartisan legislation introduced last Congress—the Global Aircraft Maintenance Safety Improvement Act—that was later incorporated into Section 302 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 (P.L. 118-63).

Statute requires that U.S.-registered aircraft must regularly be maintained, repaired, and overhauled at FAA-certified maintenance facilities. While all of these facilities technically hold the same certification, those outside the U.S. continue to operate under lower safety standards due to longstanding FAA exemptions. This inconsistent standard has incentivized offshoring jobs and diminished safety oversight.

Over the past 15 years, Congress has repeatedly directed the FAA to close these loopholes and ensure that an FAA certification means the same thing no matter where a facility is located. Most recently, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024 required the agency to complete long-overdue rulemakings on drug and alcohol testing, background checks for maintenance personnel, and minimum mechanic qualifications. It also mandated annual unannounced inspections of foreign repair stations, as well as data collection and analysis. So far, the FAA has completed only one of these items: requiring foreign repair stations to implement a drug and alcohol testing program by December 20, 2027. We strongly support this rule and urge the FAA to reject any requests to weaken it.

We urge the agency to move quickly to complete the remaining rulemakings. Doing so would both level the playing field for U.S. workers and reduce national security and safety risks posed by uneven standards—especially at repair stations in countries like China.

## **Mechanic Qualification Standards**

Federal aviation regulations require personnel with supervisory or return-to-service authority at repair stations to hold a mechanic or repairman certificate; however, the FAA does not enforce this requirement at foreign facilities. At FAA-certified facilities outside of the U.S., only subjective measures like practical experience and general familiarity are required to oversee or approve critical maintenance work. Uniform qualification standards are essential to ensuring a consistent level of safety.

## **Background Checks**

Heavy aircraft maintenance often involves access to critical avionics and safety systems, making worker vetting essential. In addition to drug and alcohol testing, Congress required that foreign repair stations verify their maintenance personnel have passed appropriate background checks. This standard is crucial to passenger safety and national security.

## **Unannounced Inspections**

Domestic repair stations are subject to unannounced FAA inspections, which provide an accurate picture of day-to-day operations. But for foreign stations, the agency has been reluctant to do the same. Congress addressed this by requiring the FAA to conduct annual unannounced inspections of foreign repair stations. These inspections are vital to improving compliance and closing oversight gaps.

## **Maintenance Data Collection**

The FAA has not historically required maintenance data from U.S. carriers. Last year's FAA bill requires air carriers to provide information detailing the location where heavy maintenance was performed, as well as a description of the work completed, and any failures, malfunctions, or defects that affected safe operation of the aircraft. Collecting and analyzing this data will ensure the FAA has a complete view into the effects of air carriers' relying on foreign maintenance.

## **Next Steps**

We urge the FAA to move swiftly to complete the outstanding rulemakings required by Section 302 of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2024. These provisions reflect years of bipartisan work to strengthen aviation safety, support domestic workers, and reduce national security risks associated with uneven oversight abroad.

We look forward to working with you to ensure these reforms are fully implemented.

Sincerely,



---

Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



---

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress



---

Christopher H. Smith  
Member of Congress



---

Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



---

Brian K. Fitzpatrick  
Member of Congress




---

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



---

Chris Deluzio  
Member of Congress



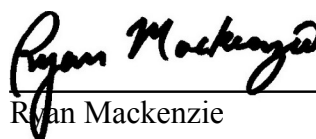
---

Judy Chu  
Member of Congress



---

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress



---

Ryan Mackenzie  
Member of Congress



---

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



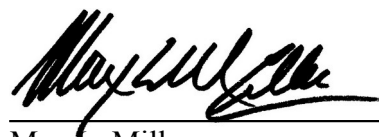
---

Brad Sherman  
Member of Congress



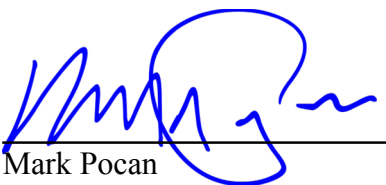
---

Thomas H. Kean, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Max L. Miller  
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



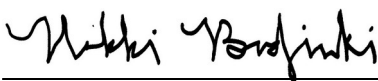
Rob Bresnahan, Jr.  
Member of Congress



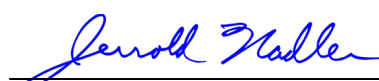
Andre Carson  
Member of Congress



Tim Burchett  
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski  
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler  
Member of Congress



Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



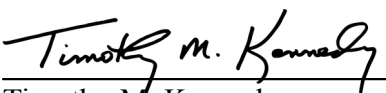
John Garamendi  
Member of Congress



Lateefah Simon  
Member of Congress



Brendan F. Boyle  
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy  
Member of Congress



Jared Huffman  
Member of Congress



Dan Goldman  
Member of Congress



Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



Laura A. Gillen  
Member of Congress



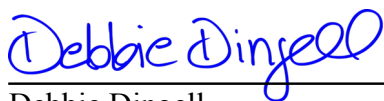
Frederica S. Wilson  
Member of Congress



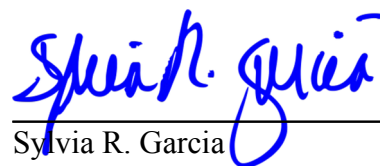
Maxine Waters  
Member of Congress



Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress



Debbie Dingell  
Member of Congress



Sylvia R. Garcia  
Member of Congress




Josh Gottheimer  
Member of Congress




Angie Craig  
Member of Congress



Donald Norcross  
Member of Congress



Morgan McGarvey  
Member of Congress



Raja Krishnamoorthi  
Member of Congress




Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress



Nick LaLota  
Member of Congress



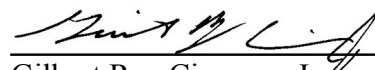
Laura Friedman  
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle  
Member of Congress



George Latimer  
Member of Congress



Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.  
Member of Congress



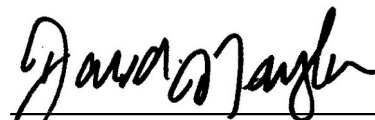
Sara Jacobs  
Member of Congress



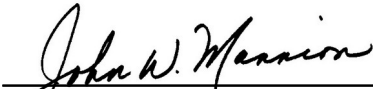
Seth Moulton  
Member of Congress



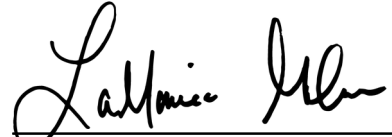
Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



David J. Taylor  
Member of Congress



John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



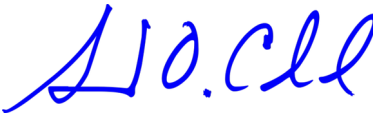
LaMonica McIver  
Member of Congress



Kevin Mullin  
Member of Congress



Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



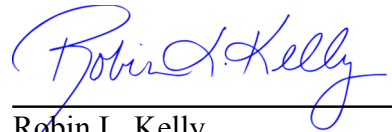
Salud Carbajal  
Member of Congress



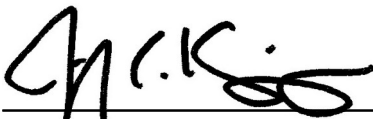
Maxwell Alejandro Frost  
Member of Congress



Delia C. Ramirez  
Member of Congress



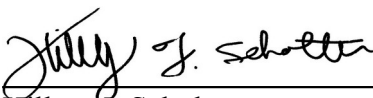
Robin L. Kelly  
Member of Congress



Jen A. Riggans  
Member of Congress



Valerie P. Foushee  
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez  
Member of Congress



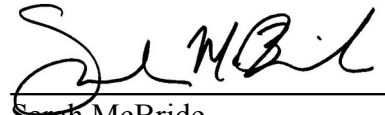
Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



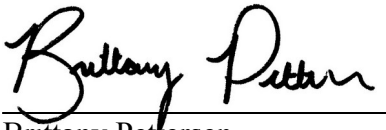
Andrew R. Garbarino  
Member of Congress



Thomas R. Suozzi  
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride  
Member of Congress



Brittany Pettersen  
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



Michael R. Turner  
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko  
Member of Congress



Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



Kim Schrier, M.D.  
Member of Congress

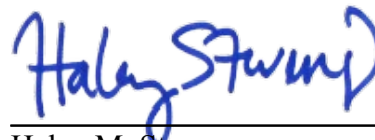


Mike Levin  
Member of Congress



---

Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



---

Haley M. Stevens  
Member of Congress



---

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



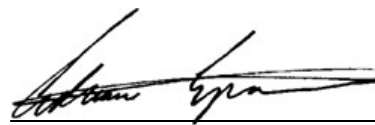
---

Sean Casten  
Member of Congress



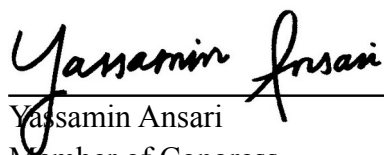
---

Melanie Stansbury  
Member of Congress



---

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



---

Yassamin Ansari  
Member of Congress



---

Chrissy Houlahan  
Member of Congress



---

Andrea Salinas  
Member of Congress



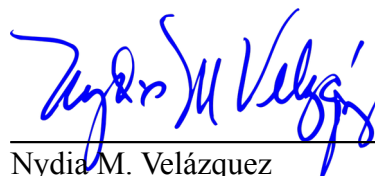
---

Marilyn Strickland  
Member of Congress



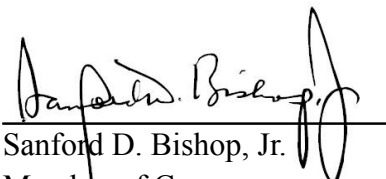
---

Chris Pappas  
Member of Congress



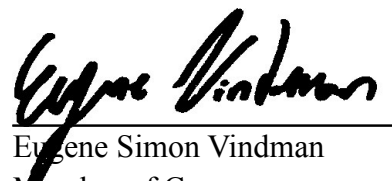
---

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress




---

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress




---

Eugene Simon Vindman  
Member of Congress



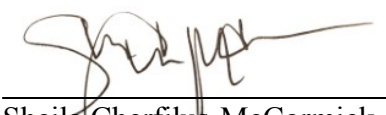
---

Val Hoyle  
Member of Congress




---

Greg Stanton  
Member of Congress




---

Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress




---

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress




---

Darren Soto  
Member of Congress




---

Nanette Diaz Barragán  
Member of Congress



---

Robert Garcia  
Member of Congress



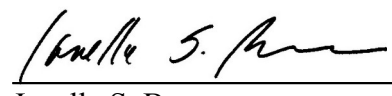
---

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Greg Casar  
Member of Congress



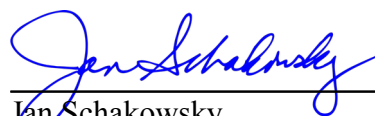
---

Janelle S. Bynum  
Member of Congress



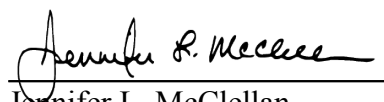
---

Eric Swalwell  
Member of Congress



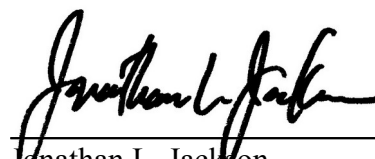
---

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



---

Jennifer L. McClellan  
Member of Congress



---

Jonathan L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



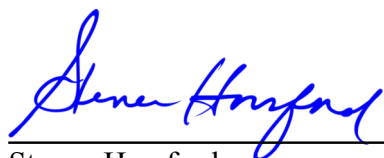
---

Eric Sorensen  
Member of Congress



---

Gabe Amo  
Member of Congress



---

Steven Horsford  
Member of Congress



---

Diana DeGette  
Member of Congress