

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 29, 2022

Chairman David Price Ranking
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Member Mario Diaz-Balart
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Transportation, Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair Price and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

As Members of Congress, we recognize the importance of aviation manufacturing to our districts and the country. We are proud of the great aviation companies who are leaders in technology and innovation and provide good, high-skilled jobs.

We also recognize the important safety and certification work done by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) which contributes to aviation safety and industry growth. Additionally, FAA international leadership is critical to meet the certification, validation, and safety activities of the global industry. All aviation products and safety enhancing technologies must be type certificated by FAA to be used domestically as well as validated with foreign civil aviation authorities before they can be exported.

FAA has recognized that they must manage bilateral agreements and technical implementation procedures more effectively and have recently established the International Validation Branch Office (AIR-730) with limited staffing. We are asking for \$6 million above the President's request for Aircraft Certification Service to fully staff AIR-730. The Branch office offers a path for a more structured and systematic focus on validations and the delivery of more balanced and consistent results among companies and authorities. This will help US industry remain competitive and prevent unnecessary delays in bringing products to market and ensure that US and foreign manufacturers operate on a level playing field.

It is also essential that the FAA regional aircraft certification offices (ACOs) are adequately funded and staffed with qualified avionics, electrical, human factors, software, and flight test personnel to keep pace with the increasing level of industry activity and innovation. These offices are directly responsible for all stages of certification projects including design approval and safety oversight as well as continued operational safety. We ask the Committee to provide \$10 million over the President's budget for the Aircraft Certification Service to ensure that staffing levels at the regional ACOs can meet increasing demand, responsibilities, and workload.

To facilitate these critical activities, we suggest the following funding and report language in the Operations Account of the FAA budget:

"Aircraft Certification Offices and International Validation Branch -The Committee provides \$16 million above the budget request for the Aircraft Certification Service (AIR), of which \$10 million is provided for the regional Aircraft Certification Offices (ACOs) and \$6 million for the newly established International Validation Branch (AIR-730). The ACOs are responsible for design approval and certificate management, FAA individual and organizational designee oversight, accident investigations, validation of individual products by foreign authorities, and operational safety. FAA should focus on recruiting avionics, electrical, human factors, software, and flight test personnel. The funding provided for AIR-730 will fully staff the office and ensure

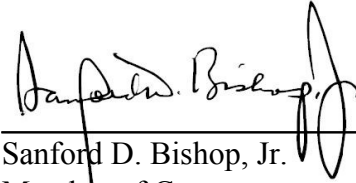
bilateral agreements are more effectively managed, facilitate validation improvements, and prevent unnecessary delays in bringing products to market.”

We believe these investments are critical to the future success of this industry and its contributions to safety, innovation, and good jobs. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to discussing these important initiatives with you.

Sincerely,



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



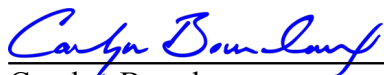
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress




Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



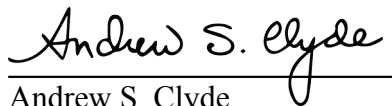
Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



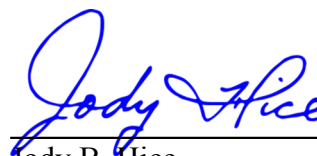
Carolyn Bourdeaux
Member of Congress



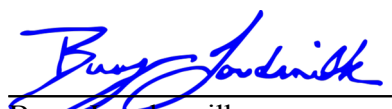
Austin Scott
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Andrew S. Clyde
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Jody B. Hice
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Barry Loudermilk
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Rick W. Allen
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David Scott
Member of Congress



Mike Gallagher
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Nancy Mace
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Jon Ossoff
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator