

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2023

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President,

As pilots who have collectively logged tens of thousands of flight hours, including for some of us in the military, we write to urge you to withdraw the nomination of Phillip Washington to serve as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). While Mr. Washington honorably served our nation in the Army, he did not serve in an aviation unit. He is not a pilot, has zero aviation safety experience, and is entirely unqualified to lead the federal agency responsible for keeping the flying public safe.

The FAA cannot afford to be led by someone who needs on-the-job training, especially at a time when our aviation system is facing tremendous safety challenges such as multiple near-misses by airlines and the first nationwide ground stop of aircraft since 9/11. Congress has long recognized this fact. That's why federal law requires that the FAA Administrator "have experience in a field directly related to aviation." (49 U.S.C. § 106(c)(3)). As a result, FAA Administrators have typically had decades of aviation experience.

In stark contrast, Mr. Washington, has never flown a plane, never worked for an airline or an aircraft manufacturer, and never served as an air traffic controller. His aviation experience is limited to working at the Denver airport for less than two years. In that role, Mr. Washington is primarily responsible for non-aviation matters, such as the airport's shops, restaurants, parking, and buildings. At his recent confirmation hearing, he demonstrated how little he knows about aviation when he repeatedly failed to answer simple aviation questions, including about safety and airports.

From our experience as pilots, we know the vital role the FAA Administrator plays in ensuring safe air travel for the American people. Mr. Washington is woefully unqualified to fill this role. We urge you to withdraw his nomination and select a nominee with the necessary aviation knowledge, experience, and expertise to fulfill the FAA's important public safety mission.

Sincerely,



Ted Budd  
United States Senator



August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



M. Michael Rounds  
United States Senator



Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



Wesley P. Hunt  
Member of Congress



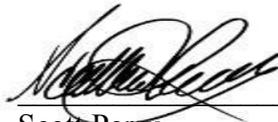
Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



C. Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



Jake Ellzey  
Member of Congress



Scott Perry  
Member of Congress



John James  
Member of Congress



Mike Garcia  
Member of Congress



Rich McCormick, MD MBA  
Member of Congress



Chris Stewart  
Member of Congress