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COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER,
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND
COMMUNITY OPPORTUNITY

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY INDEPENDENCE
AND GLOBAL WARMING

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-4802

May 19, 2009

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Chairman Jerry F. Costello
Subcommittee on Aviation
Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Ranking Member Thomas Petri
Subcommittee on Aviation
Transportation and Infrastructure
Committee

Dear Chairman Costello and Ranking Member Petri,

The National Transportation Safety Board hearing on Colgan Air Flight 3407, May 12 -14 2009, provided compelling insight into the causes of the flight's crash and underscores a need to further examine the regional air industry.

Regional air carriers have grown to become an important component of our nation's aviation system. They account for a quarter of passenger air traffic, service over six hundred airports and carry almost one hundred and sixty million passengers annually.

Most notably, regional carriers offer a crucial service for passengers living in communities without access to a major airport. These flights are often economic lifelines that connect rural communities to major cities. In my home state of West Virginia, regional carriers provide much needed service to five Essential Air Service airports.

The services provided by a regional carrier make it unique from the rest of the airline industry. I encourage you to hold a Subcommittee on Aviation hearing to examine the safety practices, training and concerns of regional carriers. Rather than focusing solely on the Flight 3407 tragedy or Colgan Air, the hearing should explore the entire regional air industry and include representatives from all the airlines, the airports and the FAA.

I thank you for your leadership on our Subcommittee. Please contact me or my staff if we can be of any assistance with this hearing.

Sincerely,


Shelley Moore Capito

CC: Chairman James L. Oberstar
Ranking Member John L. Mica