



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

James L. Oberstar  
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica  
Ranking Republican Member

November 19, 2010

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff  
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable J. Randolph "Randy" Babbitt  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, D.C. 20591

Dear Administrator Babbitt:

I am writing to request that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) immediately amend its proposed pilot license rulemaking to be in compliance with the mandate from Congress.

I was astounded to hear details of the FAA's proposed rule regarding improved pilot licenses. Six years after the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 was enacted, the FAA has still failed to implement the improved pilot license mandates as intended by Congress. I wrote the provision included in that law, which required the FAA to issue improved pilot licenses that are tamper-proof, contain a photo, and are biometrically-enabled. Over the years, I have made repeated inquiries about FAA efforts to implement the biometric mandate. The intent of Congress with regard to this provision is clear.

Biometrically-enabled pilot licenses will allow for identification verification, improve security, and result in greater screening efficiencies. As you know, biometric technologies are currently employed for access control at the most sensitive and secure government facilities. The rule the FAA has proposed this week is embarrassingly inadequate. That the FAA continues to ignore the benefits of biometric technologies and fails to pursue timely implementation of the biometric mandate is completely unacceptable.

As you move forward with the promulgation of the improved pilot license rule, I urge you to fulfill your obligation to implement the law as intended by Congress. By failing to require the new pilot licenses to be biometrically-enabled, FAA is again ignoring a clear mandate to improve security. Your attention to this matter is appreciated.

Sincerely,

John L. Mica  
Ranking Republican Member