

National Transportation Safety Board

Office of the Chairwoman

Washington, DC 20594



May 14, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
US Senate
167 Russell Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
US Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Roger F. Wicker
US Senate
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed
US Senate
228 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Sam Graves
US House of Representatives
1135 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rick Larsen
US House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Rogers
US House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Adam Smith
US House of Representatives
2216 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Wicker, Ranking Member Reed, Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Rogers, and Ranking Member Smith:

As Chairwoman of the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), I write to thank each of you for your extraordinary efforts with respect to aviation safety this Congress. In the wake of a devastating tragedy at DCA last January, all of you worked diligently to ensure NTSB investigators received the necessary support to complete our thorough investigation. As you know, the NTSB left no stone unturned in that investigation and issued 74 findings and 50 safety recommendations to ensure such an event never happens again.

On December 17, 2025, the United States Senate unanimously passed the bipartisan Rotorcraft Operations Transparency and Oversight Reform (ROTOR) Act thanks to Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Reed's robust leadership. This bill addresses long-standing and critical NTSB safety recommendations calling for the broad implementation of Automatic

Dependent Surveillance - Broadcast (ADS-B) In throughout the National Airspace System.

On April 14, 2026, the United States House of Representatives passed the bipartisan Airspace Location and Enhanced Risk Transparency (ALERT) Act by a vote of 396-10 thanks to Chairman Graves, Ranking Member Larsen, Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Smith's strong leadership. This bill aims to comprehensively address all 50 safety recommendations that the NTSB adopted January 27, 2026, as a result of the DCA investigation.

While the underlying approach of each bill is different, both bills fundamentally have strong merit and would vastly improve aviation safety. Without additional action though, neither can become law, and it would be yet another tragedy to allow that to happen.

Congress has never before advanced all of NTSB's recommendations following a tragedy; your combined efforts are truly historic and will save lives, if a final bill is passed and signed by the President. We must not miss this opportunity to improve aviation safety. We have investigated far too many tragedies where our warnings have gone unheeded and recommendations ultimately closed-unacceptable, only to see that same tragedy reoccur - tragedies we know would have been prevented had our recommendations been implemented. I urge both chambers to work collaboratively to resolve the differences in your respective approaches and move forward with legislation that demonstrates an uncompromising commitment to aviation safety. We owe it to the families of those who lost their lives, and to the flying public at large, to ensure that a tragedy such as the DCA midair collision never occurs again. **Every day, every minute, that passes without implementation of all 50 NTSB recommendations represents a continued and unacceptable risk to public safety.**

Thank you again for championing safety, and please know that I and the NTSB stand ready to assist you in support of that effort.

Sincerely,



Jennifer Homendy
Chairwoman