

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-1314

December 14, 2015

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Peter DeFazio
Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Investigate Federal Aviation Administration Hiring Practices

Dear Chairman Shuster and Ranking Member DeFazio:

We appreciate your decision to host a roundtable on the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) staffing, hiring, and training needs of air traffic controllers. The meeting proved to be a productive beginning in addressing the gross inadequacies in the hiring process and shortages amongst controllers nationwide. However, it was made clear that answers are still needed, and many questions remain unanswered by the FAA regarding the hiring of air traffic controllers.

We write to respectfully renew our request that the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure hold a hearing on the FAA changes to the hiring process of air traffic controllers. These changes have generated concerns related to safety, transparency, and fairness, and we ask that the Committee take steps to examine these changes for much needed reform. While the roundtable was helpful, only a hearing involving FAA officials can get to the root issues at play and provide answers for the American people.

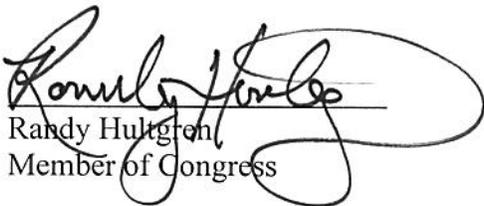
Controversy surrounding the FAA's changes to the hiring process of air traffic controllers continues to warrant congressional inquiry. Nearly two years since the Barrier Analysis was performed, the newly revised hiring process remains saturated with a disturbing lack of transparency in regards to how air traffic controllers are selected. Although this modification was justified as a means to streamline the hiring process, there are strong indications that the plan has achieved just the opposite, resulting in unjust economic injury to qualified candidates and the FAA's very own Collegiate Training Institutions, a historic source of producing qualified candidates.

As you are aware, Fox Business Network aired an hour-long special highlighting the suspicious changes made to the FAA's air traffic controller hiring process, including an investigation into an alleged cheating scandal in reference to the Biographical Questionnaire. These revelations showed that the FAA or aviation-related employees may have assisted in giving potential air traffic controller recruits special access to answers on a key admissions test to help them gain jobs within the FAA. Rep. Hultgren led a letter signed by a number of Members demanding FAA Administrator Huerta conduct a thorough examination of the allegations and scandal. The Office of Security and Hazardous Material Safety (ASH) and the Office of Audit and Evaluation were

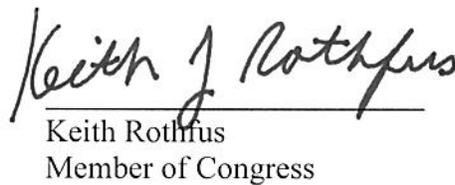
tasked with carrying out two interagency investigations. To no surprise, the FAA reported no evidence of wrongdoing. Key individuals impacted by the cheating scandal report to me that despite repeated attempts, the FAA investigators did not return calls or set up interviews with them. Their charges of cheating and possession of evidence were ignored.

In light of our repeated calls for a congressional hearing on the hiring process, the National Air Traffic Controllers Association (NATCA) has recently voiced concerns over an anticipated controller hiring shortage, including at this week's roundtable. Once again, we urge you to call upon the FAA to appear before Congress for a hearing on recent changes to the air traffic controller hiring process and the path forward. It is imperative these questions are answered now.

Sincerely,



Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress



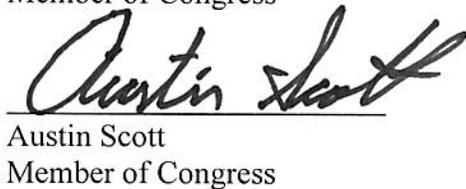
Keith Rothfus
Member of Congress



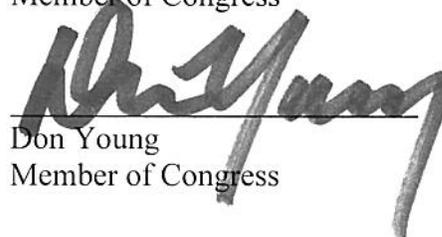
Patrick Murphy
Member of Congress



Bill Johnson
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Don Young
Member of Congress