



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

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

April 17, 2007

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The Honorable James Oberstar, Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerry Costello, Chairman
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
Subcommittee on Aviation
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Oberstar and Costello:

We understand that you are planning a Full Committee hearing in mid-May to consider airmen medical certificates and the actions the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) took in response to a July 2005 Department of Transportation Inspector General report that highlighted the issue. While considering FAA oversight of airmen medical certificate requirements, we believe it would be beneficial and appropriate for the Committee to also examine the Age 60 Rule.

As you know, in January 2007 the FAA announced its intention to end the Age 60 Rule which has required commercial airline pilots to retire at age 60 for almost half a century. FAA Administrator Blakey's announcement, "Experience Counts," argued that safety in the cockpit is further enhanced by allowing our most experienced pilots to fly an additional five years. We are not aware of any medical studies or reports that contradict the Administrator's claims and believe an open discussion in the Full Committee on the Age 60 Rule would be of benefit to the Members and the American public.

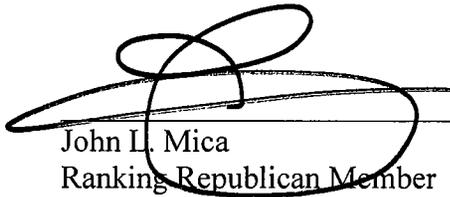
Honorable James Oberstar and Honorable Jerry Costello

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We appreciate your consideration of this request in advance and look forward to hearing from you regarding this important matter

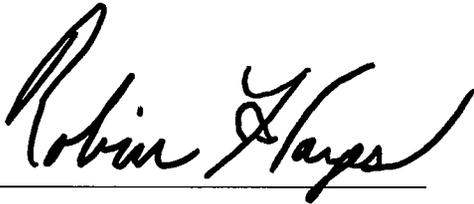
Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member
Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



Thomas E. Petri
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Aviation



Robin Hayes
Member of Congress