



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

March 30, 2009

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

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable James Oberstar, Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building

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

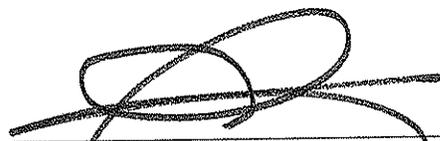
Dear Gentlemen:

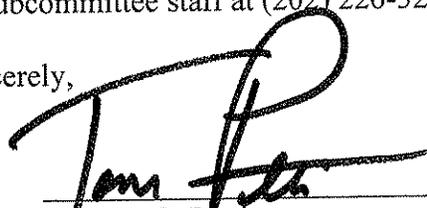
On February 12, 2009, Continental Flight 3407 crashed into a house outside of Buffalo, New York, killing all aboard and one person on the ground. Last Sunday afternoon, a Pilatus PC 12/45 aircraft crashed in a cemetery outside of Butte, Montana, killing all aboard. A similar accident occurred in March 2005 near Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, when another Pilatus PC 12/45 flying through similar weather conditions crashed killing all aboard. In each case, press reports have cited icing as a potential factor in all of these tragic accidents.

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is beginning its investigation into the cause of two most recent accidents. Whether or not icing is the cause of these accidents in particular, these reports serve as a reminder of the hazard posed by flight into icing conditions. The Board recognizes the risk posed to flight safety when ice forms on an aircraft. In fact, "Reducing Dangers to Aircraft Flying in Icing Conditions" has been included on the NTSB's Most Wanted List for over ten years. Therefore, we request that the Subcommittee on Aviation conduct a hearing to explore aircraft icing hazards and the steps being taken to address this potentially deadly risk.

If you have any questions regarding this request, please do not hesitate to contact Holly Woodruff Lyons on the Aviation Subcommittee staff at (202) 226-3220.

Sincerely,


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


Thomas E. Petri
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Aviation