



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD'S LARGEST PILOTS UNION • WWW.ALPA.ORG

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November 15, 2018

The Honorable Dan Elwell
Acting Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration

The Honorable Robert Sumwalt
Chairman
National Transportation Safety Board

Sent via e-mail: daniel.elwell@faa.gov and robert.sumwalt@ntsb.gov

Dear Acting Administrator Elwell and Chairman Sumwalt,

As you are both aware, the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA), as the representative of more than 61,000 pilots at 34 airlines in the United States and Canada, has been closely monitoring the investigation into the Lion Air Boeing 737 Max accident, which occurred October 29, 2018.

Based on recent reporting about the 737 Max, we are concerned that a potential, significant aviation system safety deficiency exists, and we are writing to ask for your immediate help and assistance in clarifying the issues with respect to the pitch control system of the aircraft. Some media reports indicate that the 737 Max was designed and certified with a new automatic pitch control system that was not on previous versions of the Boeing 737. More importantly, however, these reports indicate that information regarding the normal and non-normal operation of this system was not provided to the frontline airline employees—the flight crews and maintenance technicians.

We understand that this is an ongoing investigation and that additional details will be forthcoming; however, there appears to be a significant information gap, and we want to ensure that pilots operating these aircraft have all of the information they need to do so safely. While the FAA and NTSB have been actively assisting in this investigation, the lack of critical safety information being provided to the air carriers and frontline operators is concerning.

ALPA urges the FAA and the NTSB, in coordination with the manufacturer, to communicate all relevant information to the operators to ensure the continued safe operation of this aircraft.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "T. Canoll".

Captain Tim Canoll
President
Air Line Pilots Association, International