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TO.

The Honorable Maria Cantrell, Chair

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Roger Wicker, Ranking Member

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

November 14, 2022

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Wicker:

On behalf of the African American Mayors Association (AAMA), representing cities with major airport hubs, including San Francisco, California; Denver, Colorado; Atlanta, Georgia; Chicago, Illinois; New Orleans, Louisiana; Baltimore, Maryland; Newark, New Jersey; New York City, New York; Charlotte, North Carolina; Houston, Texas; and, Seattle, Washington, we write to you to urge the swift confirmation of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Administrator nominee, Mr. Phil Washington. President Biden announced Mr. Washington's nomination on July 6, 2022 and sent the nomination to the Senate on July 11, 2022. AAMA commends and supports President Biden's nomination of this exceptionally qualified leader to be the next FAA Administrator.

At a seminal time for the airline industry, there has been no permanent administrator in nearly seven months. Our airports support thousands of jobs and businesses around the country. The confirmation of this highly qualified nominee is necessary and urgent.

Mr. Phil Washington has demonstrated extraordinary leadership and advanced diversity and equity throughout his career. He was the chief executive of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) from 2015 to 2021, and served the Biden administration on the transition team for transportation after the 2020 election. At Metro, he managed a balanced budget of more than \$8 billion and provided oversight of an agency with 11,000 employees that transported 1.2 million boarding passengers daily on a fleet of 2,200 clean-air buses and six rail lines.



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Washington served as the CEO of Denver Regional Transportation District (RTD) between 2009 and 2015 and worked as the assistant general manager of RTD for nearly 10 years before being named CEO. In Denver, he led and implemented the FasTracks program, one of the largest voter-approved transportation expansion programs in the country. Additionally, Mr. Washington co-founded the Equity in Infrastructure Program (EIP), designed to improve contracting practices by creating opportunities for historically underutilized businesses. In particular, his experience leading the EIP is critical as the Biden Administration seeks to distribute funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act in a manner that is equitable; and helps to fuel the growth of the Airport Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program.

Mr. Washington brings an extensive record in managing complex organizations and delivering results. Washington currently serves on the mayor's cabinet as CEO of Denver International Airport, the third busiest airport in the world.

As the Biden Administration seeks to modernize the American aviation industry through historic investments in airports, having steady, proven leadership at the FAA is vital. We can think of no better experienced professional to lead the FAA than Mr. Washington. Please take swift action to confirm his nomination.

Regards,



Frank Scott, Jr.
Mayor of Little Rock, AR
President, AAMA

Michael B. Hancock
Mayor of Denver, CO
Member, AAMA

