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Regional Airline Association Applauds Release of FAA's Report on Airline Safety Call to Action

The Regional Airline Association (RAA) today welcomed the release of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) report, "Answering the Call to Action on Airline Safety and Pilot Training." The report describes the progress made in response to FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt and Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood's June 2009 Call to Action on airline safety.

"Regional airlines applaud the leadership Administrator Babbitt has taken to further enhance aviation safety," said RAA President Roger Cohen. "This report confirms the excellent safety record of regional airlines, which are committed to the highest professional standards."

The FAA's report shows the effectiveness of regional airline training and safety programs. Following the Call to Action, FAA inspectors observed 2,419 training and checking programs. They determined that 99.4% of these programs met or exceeded federal requirements.

"Regional airlines make more than five million safe departures a year," Cohen said, "but we agree with Administrator Babbitt that 'an almost perfect record is not enough.' Regional airlines have a strong safety culture that is the foundation for tireless improvement in accident prevention. Our industry's response to the Call to Action is an example of how the FAA, airlines and labor organizations can enhance safety through collaboration."

As part of their response to the Call to Action, regional airlines are participating in the Aviation Rulemaking Committee (AVC) Administrator Babbitt established in June to address Flight and Duty Time Limitations and Rest Requirements (FDR). The committee is developing recommendations for a new FAA regulation on the amount of time pilots will be required to rest between shifts.

Cohen also emphasized that regional airlines uphold the values of professionalism and accountability that Administrator Babbitt identified as essential to safety.

"Every regional airline puts safety first," said Cohen. "And every employee of every regional airline is 100 percent accountable for safety."

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With safety as its highest priority, the [Regional Airline Association](http://www.raa.org) (RAA) represents regional airlines before legislative and regulatory agencies, and also provides a wide array of technical, educational, and promotional support to regional airlines and their supply company partners. RAA's 32 member airlines operate one half of all U.S. scheduled passenger flights and carry more than one in five domestic passengers. RAA members serve more than 600 U.S. airports, and some 75 percent of those airports depend on regional airlines, exclusively, for their only source of scheduled air service.

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