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Regional Airlines Announce Enhanced Safety Programs

Washington, DC -The Regional Airline Association (RAA) announced today at a U.S. House hearing that nearly all its member airlines, which carry 98 percent of regional airline passengers, have either established or committed to establishing both a Flight Operations Quality Assurance (FOQA) program and an Aviation Safety Action Program (ASAP).

"These achievements are but one demonstration of our member airlines' commitment to safety," said Regional Airline President Roger Cohen. "Aviation safety is a shared responsibility, and we look forward to continuing our work with Congress, the FAA, our employees and mainline partners to ensure the U.S. air transportation system remains the safest mode of travel."

RAA also outlined to the House Aviation Subcommittee the elements of its own independent Strategic Safety Initiative, including study of human performance and fatigue issues and a more thorough review of pilot check rides.

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With safety as its highest priority, RAA represents North American regional airlines, and the manufacturers of products and services supporting the regional airline industry, before the Congress, DOT, FAA and other federal agencies.

With more than 13,000 regional airline flights every day, regional airlines operate more than 50 per cent of the nation's commercial schedule. Some 160 million passengers annually -- more than one of every five domestic airline passengers -- travel on regionals, and the more than 2,700 regional aircraft comprise about nearly 40 percent of the US commercial passenger fleet. Most notably, regional airlines serve 631 communities across the country and in 486 of those communities -- 77 percent of the US - - regional airlines provide the only scheduled service.

Founded in 1975, Washington, DC-based RAA also provides a wide array of technical, government relations and public relations services for regional airlines. The association's 31 member airlines and 280 associate members represent the key decision makers of this vital sector of the commercial aviation industry.