

May 14, 2019

Honorable Roger Wicker
Chairman, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Wicker and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA), I write to respectfully express our support for the confirmation of Steve Dickson to the position of administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). With more than 11,000 members, NBAA is the leading organization for companies that utilize general aviation aircraft to make their businesses more efficient, productive and successful.

Throughout his distinguished career at Delta Air Lines, and service to our nation as a F-15 fighter pilot in the U.S. Air Force, Mr. Dickson has been committed to upholding the highest standards of aviation safety and professionalism. The more than 45,000 FAA employees who work tirelessly to operate a safe and efficient aviation system deserve a leader with the proven management experience that Steve Dickson would bring each day.

Most recently, Mr. Dickson served as Senior Vice President of Flight Operations at Delta, where he was responsible for overseeing nearly 5,000 daily flights and 15,000 pilots. In addition, he directly oversaw pilot training standards, compliance, staffing and scheduling at the airline. During his 27-year career at Delta, he flew the Airbus A320 and Boeing 727, 737, 757 and 767 aircraft.

His leadership experience on critical Federal Advisory Committees also provides Mr. Dickson with a deep understanding of the air traffic control (ATC) system. He served as chair of a task force that made key recommendations to advance ATC modernization goals while creating a business case for investing in NextGen technologies. This work led to formation of the NextGen Advisory Committee (NAC), which Mr. Dickson served on until his retirement from Delta.

During his time on the NAC, Mr. Dickson was committed to advancing NextGen technologies that benefitted all airspace users, including general aviation. The United States has the world's largest and most diverse aviation system, supporting more than 200,000 general aviation aircraft and 5,000 public use airports. Through technologies such as Performance Based Navigation, which the NAC helped bring to fruition, general aviation has safer and more precise approaches to thousands of airports. This is just one example of the many critical NextGen technologies that our industry currently uses each day.

With his role as a senior leader at Delta and direct experience in advancing ATC modernization, Mr. Dickson is uniquely qualified to serve as the next FAA administrator. As you consider his nomination, please know that NBAA strongly supports Steve Dickson to lead the FAA.

Sincerely,



Ed Bolen
President & CEO