



U.S. Department  
of Transportation  
**Federal Aviation  
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.  
Washington, DC 20591

December 13, 2023

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) technical review of a proposed amendment to the FAA reauthorization bill currently under consideration in the U.S. Senate. The FAA remains committed to the mission of ensuring safe and efficient operations across the National Airspace System every day.

As you know, the Administration put forward a number of policies it hopes Congress may consider as the Senate proceeds through the process of moving an FAA Reauthorization bill. I look forward to working with you and your colleagues to arrive at a bill the Administration hopes can balance the many competing interests of the aviation sector. Having a long-term bill in place contributes to stability within the FAA to chart a course with a clear understanding of Congressional intent and expectation while delivering a safe system fit for both conventional operations and exciting new entrants.

With respect to your questions, the answer to each of them is, no. The language that your office provided to me for review does not change the 1500-hour rule in any way, it does not give the FAA new rulemaking authority to change the 1500-hour rule, it does not reduce the number of in-air flight hours a pilot must gain to become a pilot or co-pilot for a U.S. commercial airline and finally, it does not create any new paths for R-ATP candidates to attain their R-ATP certificate.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide the agency's technical review. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Lauren R. Dudley, Assistant Administrator for Government and Industry Affairs, at (202) 267-3277.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Whitaker", written in a cursive style.

Michael G. Whitaker  
Administrator