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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 10, 2026

The Honorable Bryan Bedford
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Bedford:

The duty of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) is to provide the American people with the safest aviation system in the world. My district encompasses Van Nuys Airport, Whiteman Airport, and part of Hollywood Burbank Airport. In addition, Los Angeles International Airport serves many of my constituents. With the aviation industry having a massive impact on my district, it is important to ensure passengers, workers, and the community are safe.

I am deeply concerned about the recent comments by National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chair Jennifer Homendy. At a hearing on January 27, 2026, when discussing last year's tragic mid-air collision near Reagan Washington National Airport, Chair Homendy stated that the next midair collision is going to be at Hollywood Burbank Airport and that "nobody at FAA is paying attention." This statement is deeply alarming and frightening, and the FAA must take immediate steps to ensure safety for passengers, community members, the workforce, and the industry.

The Van Nuys, Whiteman, and Hollywood Burbank Airports all have flight paths over my Congressional District in the San Fernando Valley. One error along any of these flight paths could result in a tragic outcome in the loss of life and property. It is the responsibility of the FAA to instill confidence in my constituents and the aviation industry and assure them that every possible tool is being used to ensure safety. It is imperative that the FAA use the best available science and methodology to ensure the safest aerospace system in the world.

As part of my oversight responsibilities – and for the safety of my constituents – I am requesting a response to the following questions:

1. What is the FAA's communication with the NTSB concerning the airspace around Van Nuys Airport, Whiteman Airport, and Hollywood Burbank Airport?
2. What additional steps is FAA taking to address the safety concerns stated by NTSB?

My constituents not only use these airports for business or leisure travel, but my district is home to many of the hard-working members of the aviation workforce, including air traffic controllers,

pilots, flight attendants, and transportation security officers. Our aviation system is a great source of pride in the San Fernando Valley due to its commitment to safety for all. With Los Angeles hosting several World Cup games this year and the Summer Olympics in 2028, it is important that urgent steps are taken to ensure the safety of everyone who will be traveling through Los Angeles area airports for these events.

I look forward to your response on these issues and to continue communicating on ensuring that the airspace in the San Fernando Valley and across the country continues to be safe for all.

Sincerely,

Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress
California's Twenty-Ninth District

CC: Secretary Sean Duffy, Department of Transportation
Chair Jennifer Homendy, National Transportation Safety Board