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PROFESSIONAL AVIATION SAFETY SPECIALISTS, AFL-CIO

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March 2, 2020

Steve Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave., SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Dickson:

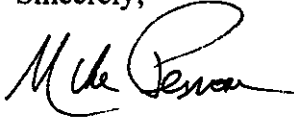
As the news continues to swirl with information about a coronavirus, known as COVID-19, the employees that PASS represents in both the Air Traffic Organization and Aviation Safety are rightfully concerned about the impact the growing outbreak may have on their health and wellbeing. Employees also seek to know what steps the agency is taking to mitigate any exposure in the workplace, which may be an office, the interior or exterior of an airport, an airplane cabin, cockpit or cargo area, or an accident site.

In her February 27, 2020 testimony about the president's 2021 budget before the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, Secretary Chao was asked about the Department of Transportation's role in dealing with the outbreak. Secretary Chao said that DOT is a member of the government's coronavirus task force and referenced the health screenings at 11 designated airports for Americans returning from impacted areas. She told lawmakers the department has been involved in health protocols to protect aircraft crews continuing to fly between the U.S. and foreign destinations, and providing "health messages about the coronavirus for airlines to inform their passengers." The secretary said nothing about the FAA employees who interact with those flight crews or about the agency's employees who work in the 11 designated airports, which may have closed HVAC systems.

As it is clear the outbreak has not been contained and may be with us for some time, I believe it is imperative that we conduct a joint review of the FAA's pandemic contingency plans as soon as possible. In the agency's communication to employees on coronavirus dated February 13, 2020, there was a section on Pandemic Preparedness but that only addressed personal preparedness, not what the agency is prepared to do for its employees if this is declared a pandemic and if airports, offices, schools, etc. are closed for any length of time.

I'd like to discuss this issue with you further and to review the FAA's pandemic contingency plans. It is an issue that we need to work on together so that our employees feel safe and can continue to do their part to protect the American flying public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Perrone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Mike Perrone
National President

cc: Jeffrey Planty
Designated Agency Safety and Health Official