



**ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL FLIGHT ATTENDANTS**  
*Proudly representing the Flight Attendants of American Airlines*

July 27, 2018

Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member DeFazio,

As the newly elected National President of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is Lori Bassani and I have 33 years of experience as a Flight Attendant with American Airlines. I'd like to thank you for being a strong advocate for Flight Attendants over the years and to commit that APFA will support your efforts to keep aviation safe. APFA members have decades of experience in the cabin dealing with multiple issues so I offer our Union as a resource.

As you know, APFA is the largest independent Flight Attendant union in the world, representing nearly 27,000 Flight Attendants of American Airlines. The labor movement faces unquestionable challenges in the current political climate, but our union is focused on ensuring that Congress understands the critical role Flight Attendants play to keep aviation safe and secure for the travelling public.

APFA applauds your request to the U.S. Department of Transportation to evaluate whether emergency evacuations under current aircraft standards sufficiently meet the 90-second emergency evacuation metric. For years APFA has advocated that the decrease in seat size and pitch has not only contributed to increased incidents of air rage, but that it also hinders a safe and timely emergency evacuation which can mean saving lives. Many of the aircraft today are flying under antiquated certifications and it is critical that the 90 second evacuation requirement be evaluated under real world conditions.

Despite the challenges before us it is more important than ever that legislators like yourself continue to take the lead on issues that make a difference to Flight Attendants and consumers. I look forward to working with you to discuss our most pressing aviation issues. Please let us know how we can support your efforts as well.

Sincerely,

Lori Bassani  
APFA National President

LB/lm