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PROFESSIONAL AVIATION SAFETY SPECIALISTS, AFL-CIO

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March 11, 2020

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

Dear Administrator Dickson:

I want to follow up on my letter of March 2, asking to meet with you as soon as possible to conduct a joint review of the FAA's pandemic contingency plans as it applies to COVID-19, the coronavirus disease.

In the intervening days, the outbreak has spread throughout the United States and the employees we represent in both the Air Traffic Organization and Aviation Safety are still being told to simply follow Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidance, and have not been given adequate agency-specific advice given the diversity of FAA workplaces, working conditions and jobs. The complexity of work found within the different lines of business where we represent employees could render such guidance nearly impractical.

We are getting concerns regarding multiple issues, including official travel, from the employees we represent. For example, I recently visited one Flight Standards District Office (FSDO) and the employees informed me that they were told that hand sanitizer would be provided for members of the public coming into the FSDO, but not for the employees. Further, there continues to be confusion over the allowance to telework.

I believe there are steps we can take now to protect the employees while still protecting the flying public. There should be no "all-hands" meetings, for example. Telework-eligible employees should be encouraged to do so and the number of days they can telework expanded.

There are many issues that are specific to the employees we represent. For example, many of them cannot telework because of the nature of their jobs and their importance to the NAS. We will need to provide accommodations for their personal health and safety. They should be encouraged to limit in-person meetings, be allowed to adjust their work schedules and not be penalized for using sick leave but there may be more we can do.

Please call me to discuss this urgent matter. The agency must work with its unions to protect FAA employees at every facility and under all working conditions.

Sincerely,

Mike Perrone
National President

cc: Jeffrey Planty
Designated Agency Safety and Health Official