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Captain Sullenberger Joins Senators Boxer, Klobuchar to Demand "One Level of Safety" for All Pilots

Amendment to FAA Bill Would Close Dangerous Loophole by Ensuring that Cargo Pilots Have Same Rest Rules as Pilots of Passenger Planes

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Washington D.C. -- Captain Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger today joined Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA) and Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) at a press conference to discuss the need to pass the *Safe Skies Act* as an amendment to the FAA reauthorization bill to ensure that America's cargo plane pilots are sufficiently rested and alert before they fly.

"Fatigue is a killer," Captain Sullenberger said at the press conference. **"It's time to right this wrong. It's time to fix this rule."**

"We have one set of pilots suffering from fatigue and it's dangerous," said Senator Boxer, who urged Senate Republican leaders to allow a vote on the measure. **"Give us a vote! What are you afraid of?"**

"Cargo airline operations share the same airspace, the same runways, and the same airports as the rest of the airline industry and the flying public, and should also share the same safety rules when it comes to pilot fatigue," said Senator Klobuchar. **"A tired pilot - whether they are a cargo pilot or a passenger pilot - is a danger to themselves, to others in the air, and to those on the ground. We shouldn't have to wait for more tragedies before we close this gap in aviation safety and I call on all my colleagues to support this critical amendment."**

To view video footage of the press conference, please click [here](#).

To listen to an audio recording of the event, please click [here](#).

After the tragic 2009 crash of Colgan Flight 3407 outside of Buffalo, Congress passed legislation by Senators Boxer and Olympia Snowe (R-ME) that directed the Department of Transportation (DOT) to write new rules to address pilot fatigue. Under the new requirements, pilots of passenger planes are limited to flying either eight or nine hours, depending on the start time. Airlines are required to provide pilots with a minimum of 10 rest hours, with the opportunity for at least eight hours of uninterrupted sleep.

However, pilots of cargo planes were left out of the DOT's rest rules, allowing cargo pilots to be on duty for up to 16 hours a day, 60 percent longer than other pilots. Senator Boxer's amendment - based on the [Safe Skies Act](#), co-sponsored by Senators Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and others - would close this dangerous loophole and ensure that all pilots are flying under the same standards.

Captain Sullenberger and Senators Boxer and Klobuchar were joined at the event by Lee Collins, a cargo pilot and leader at the Independent Pilots Association, who discussed why it is so critical to have "one level of safety" for all pilots and for the public.

The Airline Pilots Association (ALPA), the Independent Pilots Association (IPA) and the Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations (CAPA) all support the legislation.

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