

HONORABLE MIKE CAREY
15TH DISTRICT OF OHIO



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
September 18, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Secretary Buttigieg,

As airline travel continues to surge towards pre-pandemic levels, it's imperative that airline passenger safety remain at the forefront of the Department of Transportation's priorities. It was recently reported by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) that 46 near-collisions among commercial airliners occurred in July. This has become part of a larger trend, as most recent data indicates there were 300 near-collisions over the last year.

I find this report to be quite disturbing. The FAA and other regulatory bodies have established strict guidelines and procedures to ensure and help facilitate the smooth flow of air traffic. These near-collisions indicate a clear deviation from these practices. Every one of these near-collisions could have resulted in fatalities with devastating consequences. The United States is a leader in modern day transportation and has an obligation to ensure airline passenger and crew safety.

It is imperative that the United States Department of Transportation demonstrate unwavering commitment to aviation safety by making every effort possible to eliminate near-collisions altogether. In addition, I request that you answer the following questions by October 25, 2023:

1. What are the major factors contributing to these near-collisions?
2. What is the Department of Transportation doing to ensure there are no more near-collisions happening among commercial airliners across the country?
3. Given recent events, what steps is the Department of Transportation taking to increase public trust in the safety of airline travel?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Carey", written over a horizontal line.

Rep. Mike Carey
Member of Congress