



November 19, 2019

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chairman
The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

Consumer Reports urges the Committee's support for H.R. 5119, the Safe Aircraft Maintenance Standards Act, which addresses a serious aircraft safety problem – the U.S. airline industry's increasingly widespread outsourcing of critical aircraft maintenance and repair to foreign repair stations, in remote corners of the world including El Salvador, Brazil, Mexico, China, and Singapore.

Despite the FAA's claimed "single standard" for maintenance and repair, in practice there is a very different set of rules for foreign repair stations, which all too often employ uncertificated, poorly trained, and inadequately screened workers. What's more, FAA inspectors are simply not providing the same level of necessary hands-on oversight.

Consumer Reports first investigated the outsourcing safety problem more than a decade ago, reporting our disturbing findings in March 2007.¹ We have continued to call attention to this problem as it has worsened.

We urge you to move this important aircraft safety legislation to enactment.

Respectfully,

Handwritten signature of William J. McGee in blue ink.

William J. McGee
Aviation and Travel Adviser
Consumer Reports

Handwritten signature of George P. Slover in blue ink.

George P. Slover
Senior Policy Counsel
Consumer Reports

cc: Members, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

¹ "An Accident Waiting to Happen? Outsourcing Raises Air-Safety Concerns," Consumer Reports, March 2007, p. 16.