



Transport Workers Union of America, AFL-CIO

John Samuelson
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Vice President

Jerome Lafragola
International
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International Administrative
Vice President

Mike Mayes
International Administrative
Vice President

"AMERICA'S FIGHTING DEMOCRATIC UNION"

March 22, 2023

The Honorable Frank Lucas
Chair
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology
2405 Rayburn
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science,
Space, and Technology
1401 Longworth
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Lucas and Ranking Member Lofgren,

On behalf of more than 155,000 member of the Transport Workers Union of America (TWU), I am writing to raise our concerns regarding Advanced Air Mobility (AAM). As the Science, Space, and Technology Committee reviews new transportation technologies and business models, we hope that you will keep these concerns at the forefront of your work.

TWU members include transportation operators, mechanics, dispatchers and other workers whose jobs could be dramatically changed by AAM equipment and software. As we have demonstrated across every mode, the TWU embraces and fights for new technology that increases the safety of our transportation systems and creates high-quality jobs. It is our hope that AAM will develop in a way that raising safety and labor standards across the entire transportation sector.

If Congress is going to prioritize federal investments into research and development of AAM, we believe it must acknowledge and account for the safety and economic effects of those investments. Similar to the emergence of autonomous ground transportation vehicles, we know that many of these advanced air technologies have crashed with regularity during testing. We also know that despite the millions of dollars pouring into development of these technologies, there is scant attention being paid to workforce issues. Any publicly funded research must address questions of job creation, worker displacement, up-skilling and training needs, as well as worker and union involvement in their development. Federal advisory bodies, to the extent they

are needed at all, must require seats for frontline workers in the industries AAM will compete in. Without these commitments and safeguards, these investments will only produce corporate marketing brochures, meant to advance one piece of equipment or another without regard to the workers operating and maintaining it or the needs of our overall transportation system.

While AAM may use our skies, it will not be solely competing against other stakeholders regulated by the FAA. Congress must consider and address the potential competition between these new technologies and more than a century's-worth of public investment into commuter rail and transit service before it funds significant demonstration projects for AAM. The TWU believes there is a place in our transportation ecosystem for AAM, but it should not be one carved out of the existing bus and rail infrastructure in our country.

We look forward to working with the Science, Space, and Technology committee, as well as the rest of Congress and the Biden Administration, to ensure that these considerations are being addressed from the very beginning of the federal government's investment into AAM.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Samuelson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

John Samuelson
International President

CC: Members of the House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology