



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, DC 20590

General Darren McDew  
U.S. Air Force, Retired  
7924 Pemswood Street  
Charlotte, NC 28277

Dear General McDew:

The U.S. Department of Transportation is pleased to appoint you to serve on its Special Committee to Review the Federal Aviation Administration's Aircraft Certification Process (Special Committee). The Special Committee was established on March 25th, 2019, pursuant to Section 202(g) of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018. Your appointment to the Special Committee is effective immediately.

Safety is the Department's top priority. The FAA has been the global leader in aviation safety for decades. Over 7 billion passengers have flown commercially in the United States over the last 10 years, and every passenger flight landed safely. Recently, two American-manufactured and certified aircraft had tragic crashes, and nearly 350 lives were lost. Part of the Department's commitment to continuous safety improvement is to study and learn from accidents and disasters, in order to better protect the travelling public, both at home and overseas. The Special Committee is an essential part of this process.

The Special Committee is an independent outside expert committee that will advise the Secretary of Transportation and the Administrator of the FAA. The Special Committee is charged with proposing improvements—when necessary and appropriate—to the FAA's aircraft certification process, including recommendations on delegations of authority and training, and improvements to other certification processes.

As part of its charge, the Special Committee is specifically tasked to review the 737 MAX 800 certification process from 2012 to 2017. Your findings from that review shall provide the basis for recommendations for future improvements. The Special Committee's charge includes, but is not limited to, the FAA certification process workplan, process timeline, Organization Designation Authorization, Designated Engineering Representatives Authorization/Certification, Authorized Representation Certification and oversight thereof.

The co-chairs of the Special Committee are retired General Darren McDew, and Captain Lee Moak. They will reach out to you to immediately organize and begin the committee's work. Collectively, the committee members have demonstrated expertise and executive leadership in: aviation safety, aviation and non-aviation systems and certifications, human factors and systems engineering, and FAA regulations and processes. The Special Committee will name a Staff Director with knowledge of, but who is not affiliated with, the FAA.

If additional expertise is needed, the Special Committee is encouraged to solicit input from relevant stakeholders, including pilot organizations and other human factors experts, as well as government agencies such as the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Thank you for your willingness to serve.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Elaine L. Chao'.

Elaine L. Chao