

*President Signs Into Law Legislation That Includes Holt Safety Provisions Introduced In Response to Flight 3407 Crash Near Buffalo*

The Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 Act (H.R. 5900) - which President Obama signed into law last week – incorporates key provisions from legislation introduced by Rep. Rush Holt (NJ-12) to correct serious safety deficiencies in the Federal Aviation Administration’s oversight of regional air carriers exposed by the National Transportation Safety Board’s investigation of the crash of Continental flight 3407 near Buffalo, New York. Several New Jersey residents - including Ron Gonzalez of North Brunswick, Lorin Maurer of Princeton, and Coleman Mellett of East Brunswick – were victims of the crash.

“The investigation of the Buffalo crash, which claimed the lives of 50 Americans, including three of my constituents, identified serious safety oversights. This new law will ensure that pilots of regional air carriers are held to the same high standards of training and safety as pilots of larger, commercial airlines. We owe it to the victims of the Buffalo crash and their families to ensure that such a tragedy never happens again,” Holt said.

A series of National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) hearings exposed the disturbing fact that the crash of Flight 3407 was preventable. The pilots had received inadequate training on how to recover from a stall and how to proceed in icing conditions. Severe pilot fatigue also was identified as the cause of the crash. The NTSB found that regional carriers are held to lower safety standards than national carriers despite regional airlines’ accounting for one-half of all scheduled flights in the United States. As a result, five of the last seven fatal commercial plane crashes involved regional carriers.

## **New Law, Based on Holt Legislation, Will Strengthen Airline Safety**

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Based on Holt's "Ensuring One Level of Aviation Safety Act", the new law would require the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to implement new safety rules for regional air carriers affecting the minimum number of flight hours required by pilots in training, pilot fatigue, and preparation for flying in poor weather.

The new law was backed by the families of the victims of light 3407. For more information on the efforts of the victims' families, visit <http://www.3407memorial.com> .