

Statement to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee
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Ambassador-designate to the International Civil Aviation Organization
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Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

I am deeply honored to appear before you today to seek your confirmation of my nomination by President Obama to be the Representative of the United States of America to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) in Montreal. I would like to thank President Obama and Secretary Clinton for the trust and confidence they have shown in nominating me for this important post. If confirmed, I will devote all my energy and experience to maximizing the effectiveness and efficiency of ICAO in carrying out its core functions: promoting the safety, security, and environmental sustainability of international civil aviation.

I have spent my entire adult life in aviation. It has included a military career in both the United States Air Force and the Air National Guard from which I retired as a Lt. Colonel. My commercial aviation piloting career spanned 31 years, with a great deal of it spent flying the Boeing 747 in international operations. If confirmed, I believe the experience gained as president of the Air Line Pilots Association, as a member of Department Of Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta's Rapid Response Team immediately following the attacks of 9/11, as well as my time spent as Co-chair of the Next Generation Air Transportation Management Council, will all prove to be invaluable in representing the United States as the permanent representative to ICAO.

Throughout its history, ICAO has principally devoted its attention to activities involving air safety and air navigation issues. The near tragic event of last December on a flight from Amsterdam to Detroit demonstrates that aviation security must continue to be bolstered. If confirmed, I will work diligently to ensure ICAO plays a pivotal role in developing and implementing international aviation security standards. On the environmental front of noise and aircraft emissions, I will, if confirmed, work diligently to insure that ICAO's environmental standards are technologically feasible and environmentally beneficial, as well as economically sustainable with the growth of international aviation.

I am also committed to bringing significant attention to good governance and efficiency at ICAO. If confirmed, I will actively pursue the U.S. government's goals with regard to budget discipline, transparency, and accountability in all areas,

including ethics rules, fair procurement practices, financial disclosure for senior officials, and whistleblower protection.

Increasing American citizen employment in the ICAO secretariat is also very important. ICAO has improved in this area, and our percentage of jobs subject to geographic distribution has increased. Moreover, some of the most senior and important jobs in ICAO are held by Americans, including the head of the Air Navigation Bureau and the Chief Financial Officer. However, we remain below our overall target, and we need to see more Americans being hired for junior positions, where they can progress and be valuable members of the ICAO secretariat for many years.

The agenda of the United States in ICAO is extensive and vitally important. I promise you that if confirmed, the United States will be assertively and effectively represented in Montreal, and that I will promote the interests and values of the United States.

Thank you. I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.