

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 9, 2019

Mr. Dennis A. Muilenburg
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer
The Boeing Company
100 North Riverside
Chicago, IL 60606

Dear Mr. Muilenburg:

We write in the wake of disturbing reports that Boeing failed to provide international aviation regulators with critical details regarding modifications to the flight-control computer system of its 737 MAX aircraft. This, coupled with ongoing concerns surrounding Boeing's lack of transparency during the certification of these aircraft – leading to the loss of 346 lives in two major airline crashes in less than five months – is deeply alarming. We urge Boeing's full and transparent cooperation with international air-safety authorities moving forward.

On September 1, 2019, *The Wall Street Journal* reported on an August meeting between Boeing and international regulators from the United States, Europe, Brazil, and elsewhere.¹ According to the report, the meeting ended prematurely due to concerns from regulators frustrated by Boeing's inability to provide technical details and answer specific questions about modifications and software updates to the aircraft. If Boeing's intention is to convince the international community that MAX aircraft are safe to operate in our skies again, this recent demonstration of evasiveness is not only startling, but also contradictory.

Last Tuesday, these concerns prompted the European Union Aviation Safety Agency to call Boeing's flight-control computer system updates insufficient – demanding more stringent flight tests to prove the safety of MAX aircraft during extreme maneuvers and with the Maneuvering Characteristics Augmentation System (MCAS) disengaged.² International authorities tasked with maintaining the safety of air travel across the globe must find a forthcoming and compliant partner in Boeing in order to do their job effectively. Boeing needs to be prepared and willing to address all inquiries from regulators – providing details about

¹ Andy Pasztor and Alison Sider, "New Delays Could Keep Boeing 737 MAX Grounded Into Holiday Travel Season," *Wall Street Journal* (New York, NY), September 1, 2019, <https://www.wsj.com/articles/new-delays-could-keep-boeing-737-max-grounded-into-holiday-travel-season-11567376957?mod=rsswn>.

² Dominic Gates, "European aviation safety agency sets strict demands for Boeing 737 MAX return to flight," *Seattle Times* (Seattle, WA), September 4, 2019, <https://www.seattletimes.com/business/boeing-aerospace/european-aviation-safety-agency-sets-strict-demands-for-737-max-return-to-flight/>.

MCAS or any other aspect of the 737 MAX. Moreover, as Boeing works to rebuild public trust in its products and policies, complete transparency is of the utmost importance.

We strongly encourage Boeing to comply with all standards and conditions set by international regulators, and we expect detailed, precise, and translucent responses to requests for information throughout the process in the future. We appreciate your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



RICHARD BLUMENTHAL
United States Senate



EDWARD J. MARKEY
United States Senate