

July 29, 1987

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Hollings  
FROM: Steve Palmer  
RE: LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH AN INDEPENDENT FAA

Eno

Center for  
Transportation

Later this week or early next week, Senator Ford intends to introduce legislation to establish the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) as an independent agency. Then, on September 10, he will chair an Aviation Subcommittee hearing on the idea of separating the FAA from the Department of Transportation (DOT).

Since becoming Chairman of the Aviation Subcommittee, Senator Ford has become increasingly concerned about the level of interference in the FAA's aviation safety efforts by the Secretary and her staff. At a speech in Washington earlier this year, he mentioned the idea of creating an independent FAA and it got very strong support from the majority of the aviation groups. That strong support has encouraged him to introduce a bill.

Senator Barry Goldwater introduced similar legislation in 1979, during the 96th Congress. No action was taken on that bill.

Administrators, including Donald Rogen, who resigned. Other individuals that have been invited to testify include Lynn Helms, President Reagan's first FAA Administrator, Rajesh Waseby, appointed by President Kennedy and the last FAA Administrator to serve prior to creation of DOT, and Alan Boyd, the first DOT Secretary under President

Senator Ford has said that he would like this hearing to examine the structural situation, including establishing an independent FAA. He would like to get input from the Administration and aviation groups.

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