The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Chao:

In the United States, more than two million pets and other animals are transported by air each year. Some do not survive the trip or are injured in the process. In some cases, animals die due to pre-existing medical conditions or other factors outside the airline’s control. However, there are incidents where an animal dies because of factors that are within the airline’s control, which appears to be the case in the recent incident involving a 10-month-old puppy being placed in an overhead bin.

In light of recent incidents involving animal death, injury, or mishandling during air transportation, we request that you provide the following information:

1. A summary of current regulations surrounding the air transportation of animals on commercial flights;

2. A summary of airline policies and industry best practices to ensure the safe transport of animals in the air;

3. A description of trends involving the loss, injury, or death of animals in air transportation;

4. A summary of enforcement or other actions taken by the Department of Transportation (DOT) against air carriers or foreign air carriers related to animals being lost, injured, or killed; and

5. Recommendations on ways to address any identified shortfalls in DOT’s policies, regulations, or oversight of the safe transport of animals by air.
We would request that you provide the requested information in as timely a fashion as possible. If you have any questions, please contact Max Rosen (Max.Rosen@mail.house.gov), with the Aviation Subcommittee, at (202) 226-3220, or Michael Tien (Michael.Tien@mail.house.gov), with the Subcommittee Democratic staff, at (202) 225-9161. Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member

Frank A. LoBiondo
Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation

Rick Larsen
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation

Don Young
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

Daniel Webster
Member of Congress

Michael E. Capuano
Member of Congress

Jeff Denham
Member of Congress

Daniel W. Lipinski
Member of Congress

Rodney Davis
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen
Member of Congress
Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress

Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress

Paul Mitchell  
Member of Congress

Cheri Bustos  
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

Dina Titus  
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley  
Member of Congress

Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress