

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR BURKE**

RE: Encouraging Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration to Preserve and Expand Regulations on Aviation Safety

WHEREAS, The Buffalo Niagara International Airport, located in the Town of Cheektowaga is a major international airport connecting flights and people throughout the world; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2009, Continental Airlines Flight 3407 crashed into the Clarence Center home of Douglas and Karen Wielinski, killing Douglas Wielinski and all forty-nine people on the inbound flight to Buffalo Niagara International Airport; and

WHEREAS, pilot error was identified as the cause of that accident due to lowered airline industry flight experience time for pilots; and

WHEREAS, in response to this tragedy, the families of the Flight 3407 victims came together to advocate for pilot training reforms in order to avoid future tragedies; and

WHEREAS, the successful advocacy of the families of Flight 3407 resulted in policy implementation on August 1, 2010, when Public Law 111-216, the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 was signed into law by President Obama; and

WHEREAS, Public Law 111-216 made significant improvements to airline safety, including regulations requiring more experience for entry level pilots, increased pilot training from 250 flight hours to a minimum of 1,500 flight hours in order to earn an Airline Transport Pilot Certificate, performance records in the form of a Pilot Record Database, and measures to safeguard against pilot fatigue; and

WHEREAS, FAA reauthorization comes before Congress again this year, and the Families of Flight 3407 are rightfully concerned that reauthorization could lead to a roll back – or even an outright repeal of the hard fought reforms in airline safety regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Families of Flight 3407 have a strong and respected advocate in their corner in Captain Chesley “Sully” Sullenberger, the Hero Pilot of the “Miracle on the Hudson,” who came to Clarence, NY on February 2, 2015 to join the Families of Flight 3407 in the battle to retain the airline safety reforms they worked so very hard to achieve; and

WHEREAS, Captain Sullenberger enthusiastically endorsed the FAA regulation changes promulgated by the Families of Flight 3407, and Captain Sullenberger acknowledged that government is duty bound to provide for the safety of its citizens in urging, along with the

Families of Flight 3407, that federal policymakers in any debate of FAA reauthorization prioritize maintaining and enhancing the aviation reforms to save lives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby proclaims its strongest encouragement to Congress and the Federal Aviation Administration to extend all safety regulations contained in Public Law 111–216, in order for the FAA reforms in airline safety to continue unchanged, maintaining and strengthening aviation; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature further declares that legislative and/or administrative changes that would degrade, roll back, reverse or in any way diminish the authority of Public Law 111–216, the Airline Safety and Federal Aviation Administration Extension Act of 2010 and the new standards or regulations implemented by the FAA in response to the advocacy of the Families of Flight 3407, would be irresponsible and unconscionable; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature shall forward certified copies of this resolution to Congressmen Higgins and Collins; Senators Schumer and Gillibrand; The White House (1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20500); The House of Representatives (H-232 The Capitol, Washington, DC 20515); The United States Senate (Washington, D.C. 20510); and to the Federal Aviation Administration, Michael Huerta, FAA Administrator (800 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20591).

Fiscal Impact: None for Resolution