

Mike Crapo
United States Senator
239 Dirksen Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510

James E. Risch
United States Senator
483 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510



Raúl Labrador
Member of Congress
1517 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515

September 8, 2011

The Honorable J. Randolph Babbitt
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Ave, S.W.
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Babbitt:

We write in reference to Tamarack Aerospace Group (Tamarack) in Sandpoint, Idaho. Tamarack has been providing engineering certification services for more than eight years. Now, they are a direct applicant of the FAA for an STC certification project. Tamarack currently employs 13 Americans and projects to grow to over 300 in the next five years.

At present, Tamarack is waiting on the FAA for an STC certification on a project submitted February 15, 2011. Due to the FAA's inefficient "project sequencing" approach to managing certification requests, Tamarack just received another notification (see attachment) that work will not commence on its project, possibly for another ninety days. Previous STC certification reviews managed by regional personnel did not result in such disruptive delays. The current situation is intolerable and jeopardizes needed American jobs.

Aerospace and engineering jobs are among the highest paid positions in this North Idaho community, and the continued delay threatens the viability of this small aerospace company. Absent timely FAA approval, the company is faced with two unappealing options—to lay off its workers or relocate to Canada.

With a weak economy and high unemployment, we do not want inaction by the federal government to cost American jobs and stifle the growth of America's small businesses. The current trajectory for this project by your agency will most certainly do so. Therefore, we respectfully request that your office take immediate action to streamline the "project sequencing" process in a way that encourages growth in the aerospace industry without compromising aviation

safety and standards. Your commitment to ensure that the FAA acts in an expeditious and responsive manner is clearly necessary.

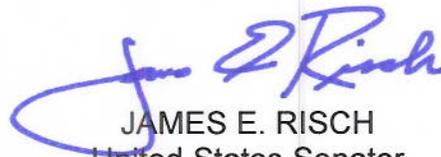
The President has stated he wants to help create jobs; we agree and want to help him as aggressively as possible. Here is your chance, and the President's chance, to act now. If you cannot immediately accommodate this request, please advise us so that we can all sit down and discuss the problem and create an innovative and urgent path forward.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to your immediate response.

Sincerely,



MIKE CRAPO
United States Senator



JAMES E. RISCH
United States Senator



RAÚL LABRADOR
Member of Congress

Enclosure



U.S. Department
of Transportation
**Federal Aviation
Administration**

**Transport Airplane Directorate
Aircraft Certification Service**

1601 Lind Avenue SW.
Renton, Washington 98057

AUG 23 2011

In Reply
Refer To: 102S-11-80

Mr. Ian Bannister
Certification Manager
Tamarack Aerospace Group
1017A Airlift Way
Sandpoint, ID 83864

Dear Mr. Bannister:

Subject: Continuation of Delay on STC Application to Increase Gross Weight and
Install Active Winglets on Cirrus SR 22 Airplanes

In our original letter #102S-GA-11-2 dated March 17, 2011, we acknowledged receipt of your application for a STC certificate dated February 15, 2011. We also advised you that as we have done for the past several years, we sequence the flow of projects to stay within our available resources. More than 90 days have passed since we sent you our initial delay letter and, as promised, we have reevaluated our resources required to support your program and other projects in light of other FAA Aircraft Certification Service priorities. Unfortunately, we have found that we continue to be unable to commence work on your project.

We will continue to evaluate our workload on a weekly basis and again provide you with an update regarding the status of your application within the next 3 months. Meanwhile, we encourage you to continue to focus on further development of your Project Specific Certification Plan (PSCP) and formation of a complete team of designees to support you and the ACO in timely accomplishment of the certification tasks. We remain committed to assisting you in the further development of organizational delegation programs, if applicable. Your investment in these two areas, formal agreements and delegation, will help us to better support your certification needs once FAA Aircraft Certification Service work on the project commences. If you have any questions, please contact Jeff Morfitt at (425) 917-6405 or via e-mail at jeff.morfitt@faa.gov.

Sincerely,

for Robert D. Breneman
Acting Manager, Seattle Aircraft
Certification Office, ANM-100S