



May 27, 2009

## **House Passes FAA Reauthorization Bill**

The House of Representatives has passed the FAA Reauthorization Bill containing many of the major provisions the Machinists Union has spearhead in recent years.

The bill (H.R. 915) includes funding for a Next Generation air traffic control system, provides for safety and health standards for flight attendants, mandates increased supervision of overseas aircraft repair stations, requires a review of FAA air traffic control staffing and closes the FedEx loophole that helped keep the package delivery company largely non-union by placing non-airport employees under the jurisdiction of the Railway Labor Act.

“The House’s passage of the bill is an significant first step in protecting our skies and people working in the aviation field,” said General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr. “We urge the Senate to take swift action on a comparable bill so this important legislation can be enacted.”

## **Senate Confirms Obama’s FAA and NMB Picks**

The Senate recently confirmed Linda Puchala as a member of the three-person National Mediation Board (NMB) and Randy Babbitt as Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).

“President Obama’s nomination and the Senate’s confirmation of these two individuals will bring much needed fairness and balance to these key federal agencies and improve the safety and efficiency to the U.S transportation system,” said General Vice President Robert Roach, Jr.

Puchala recently served as a senior mediator with the NMB and is the former president of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA. The National Mediation Board oversees collective bargaining mediation and union representation elections in the air and rail industries, including elections as a result of the pending merger between Delta and Northwest Airlines.

Babbitt is the former president of the Air Line Pilots Association. He most recently worked as a partner in the aviation practice of a management-consulting firm.