

April 21, 2008

Hank Krakowski  
FAA COO ATO  
800 Independence Ave. SW  
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Mr. Krakowski:

When we met for the first time after the FAA hired you I asked why you took this job. Your response was that you wanted to make a difference and change things for the better. Two weeks ago in Chicago you stood in front of hundreds of safety professionals explaining your vision of a safety culture, and to what lengths you would take to ensure that your managers do the right thing in performance of their duties. However, over the last six months, and in particular a situation involving a probationary employee, your commitment to make a difference and correct wrongdoings appears to be more about rhetoric than substance.

Last fall when you met with the NATCA Executive Board, we provided you with a number of issues for you to address that would "make a difference for the better." There has been no change to date. This past week, the Agency terminated a probationary employee for nothing more than not being able to drive to work in a snowstorm. I asked you to investigate this matter and make right a grave injustice. Instead, you handed off the investigation to the same individuals who made the original decision, only to recommend the same result.

You and I discussed the myriad of issues associated with the removal of dozens of probationary employees for no apparent justifiable reason except to protect management from having to defend their decision prior to the probationary period expiring. It is clear to me that you choose to support your managers' bad decisions; your "commitment" to making a difference rings hollow. Unfortunately, the hard working men and women I represent only receive more of the same. Your commitment to being a change agent has become empty talk. You have established yourself as the status quo in a very public arena and in doing so have caused irreparable harm to any chance we had of working together.

For my part, I will continue to do all I can to improve the working lives of the people who keep our skies safe but I will do it knowing full well that you have chosen to be part of the problem rather than the solution.

Regards,

Patrick Forrey  
President  
National Air Traffic Controllers Association