



# National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Office of the Chairman

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Nikki R. Haley  
Governor of South Carolina  
Office of the Governor  
1205 Pendleton St.  
Columbia, SC 29201

Dear Governor Haley:

The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) is an independent federal agency charged by Congress with investigating every civil aviation accident in the United States and significant accidents in other modes of transportation—railroad, highway, marine, and pipeline. We determine the probable cause of the accidents and issue safety recommendations aimed at preventing future accidents. In addition, we conduct special studies concerning transportation safety and coordinate the resources of the federal government and other organizations to provide assistance to victims and their family members impacted by major transportation disasters.

This letter addresses NTSB Safety Recommendations I-14-1 and -2. We issued these recommendations to the state of South Carolina on September 23, 2014, as a result of our safety study *Drug Use Trends in Aviation: Assessing the Risk of Pilot Impairment*, SS 14/01, available at <http://www.nts.gov/safety/safety-studies/Documents/SS1401.pdf>. For your convenience, the background and bases for the recommendations may be found on pages 36-38 of the report.

## I-14-1

Include in all state guidelines regarding prescribing controlled substances for pain a recommendation that health care providers discuss with patients the effect their medical condition and medication use may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation.

## I-14-2

Use existing newsletters or other routine forms of communication with licensed health care providers and pharmacists to highlight the importance of routinely discussing with patients the effect their diagnosed medical conditions or recommended drugs may have on their ability to safely operate a vehicle in any mode of transportation.

We are interested in knowing whether and how our recommendations are implemented, both to ensure that the traveling public is provided the highest level of safety and to identify creative solutions that might be shared with others, and we normally expect actions to address our recommendations to be completed within 3 to 5 years. As we issued this recommendation more than a year ago and we have yet to hear from you regarding it, we would appreciate receiving a response within 90 days indicating actions you have taken or plan to take to implement it. In the meantime, the recommendation will retain its current classification of "Open—Await Response."

Please reply at [correspondence@ntsb.gov](mailto:correspondence@ntsb.gov). If your response, including attachments, exceeds 10 megabytes, please e-mail us at the same address for instructions. Please do not submit both an electronic and a hard copy of the same response.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jeffrey Marcus, Safety Recommendation Specialist, at [marcusj@ntsb.gov](mailto:marcusj@ntsb.gov).

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



**Christopher A. Hart**  
Chairman

cc: Sheridan Spoon, Esq.  
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