



August 14, 2025

Chrystia Freeland, Minister of Transport
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street, 29th Floor
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

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Dear Minister Freeland,

We are writing to respectfully request Transport Canada consider accepting U.S. pilots operating under the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) BasicMed program for flight operations within Canadian airspace, and to explore a bilateral reciprocity agreement with the United States upon the implementation of forthcoming revisions to Canada's Category 4 medical standard for private pilot license holders.

As you are aware, the FAA's BasicMed framework has been in place since 2017 and has proven effective in maintaining safety while reducing regulatory burden for general aviation pilots. It is widely supported by the U.S. aviation community wherein well over 90,000 pilots have qualified to fly safely with BasicMed privileges since the program's inception.

Currently, however, as you are aware, BasicMed pilots are not permitted to fly in Canadian airspace, which limits cross-border general aviation activity and mutual economic and recreational benefits.

With the understanding that Transport Canada is developing a new Category 4 medical standard that aligns more closely with BasicMed principles, there is a timely opportunity to establish mutual recognition between the two regulatory frameworks. Such a step would enhance cross-border collaboration, support harmonization of North American general

aviation policies, and foster a more seamless operating environment for private pilots in both countries.

Again, we respectfully urge Transport Canada to accept U.S. BasicMed pilots immediately so they can operate in Canada. We believe this would send a positive message to private pilots in both countries. Going forward, we urge Transport Canada work with the Federal Aviation Administration to establish a bilateral reciprocity agreement that would permit Canadian pilots operating under the future Category 4 medical standard to fly into the U.S. under similar allowances.

These initiatives would significantly benefit the general aviation community while maintaining the shared commitment to aviation safety and public interest.

We thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing efforts to modernize and harmonize Canada's aviation medical regulatory framework.

Sincerely,



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