



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PRESS RELEASE

VAI Commends FAA's Whitaker on His Leadership

FAA Administrator Michael Whitaker to resign in 2025.

Alexandria, VA (December 13, 2024) – Yesterday morning, in a letter to agency staff, FAA Administrator Michael Whitaker announced plans to resign from his position on Jan. 20, 2025.

VAI recognizes Whitaker's significant contributions to aviation during his tenure and thanks him for his steadfast leadership in advancing priorities critical to the vertical aviation industry and the nation.

"Administrator Whitaker's time at the helm of the FAA has been impactful, marked by meaningful progress in aviation safety, workforce development, and the integration of advanced technology," says James Viola, VAI president and CEO. "We extend our sincere thanks for his dedicated leadership and wish him continued success in his future endeavors."

Confirmed by the US Senate in October 2023, Whitaker oversaw pivotal initiatives, including the bipartisan FAA reauthorization bill passed in May 2024 and the historic Special Federal Aviation Regulation released in October 2024 that created the powered-lift category of aircraft and is a critical step in the integration of advanced air mobility operations into the National Airspace System.

VAI remains committed to building upon Whitaker's legacy and collaborating with the FAA to address future opportunities and challenges in maintaining America's global leadership in general aviation.

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Vertical Aviation International (VAI), formerly Helicopter Association International (HAI), is the world's leading membership association dedicated to the vertical aviation industry, which encompasses all aircraft capable of vertical or short takeoff and landing. Throughout its 76 years of fueling industry growth through connection, advocacy, safety, education, and support for its members' success, VAI has leveraged the power of vertical flight to strengthen communities worldwide. The association welcomes all facets of the vertical aviation industry, including manufacturers, operators, suppliers and vendors, pilots and maintenance technicians, and other aviation professionals. For more information about VAI, please visit:

<https://verticalavi.org/>

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