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# United States Senate

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November 16, 2018

The Honorable Robert L. Sumwalt  
Chairman  
National Transportation Safety Board  
490 L'Enfant Plaza, SW  
Washington, DC 20594

Dear Chairman Sumwalt:

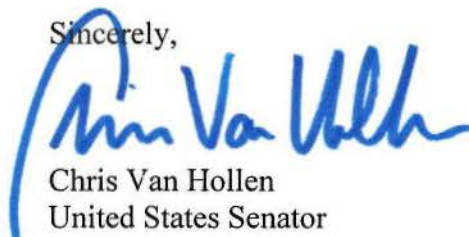
I am writing to request a status update on the investigation into the August 10, 2016 explosion at the Flower Branch Apartments in Silver Spring, Maryland. This explosion and fire resulted in the deaths of seven people; caused injuries, both physical and psychological, to many others; and left over 100 people homeless.

My office has been involved in assisting the victims of this tragedy from the outset and I am concerned about the seeming lack of progress in the investigation. I know that complex investigations can take a significant amount of time to complete; however, my constituents remain eager for answers and closure from this horrible event. I hope that the NTSB will complete this investigation as quickly as possible.

I am requesting that representatives of the NTSB provide an in-person briefing to my staff on the status of the investigation into this incident by December 7, 2018.

I appreciate your attention to this incident and the critical work performed by the Board and your dedicated investigators.

Sincerely,



Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

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