Expert Opinion Letter (Confidential)

Analysis of Positional Requirements for National Interest Waiver – Exceptional Ability

Name: Thomas Schaner

Information: Aviation Capstone Coordinator & Lecturer, Ohio State University (Ret);

President, PilotResources, Inc.; Training Checking Evaluator,

FlightSafety International: Aviation Training Director Optimal Aviation

**EDUCATION**

Master of Business Administration in Transportation, Logistics, and Operations Management Ohio State University, Columbus OH

Bachelor of Science in Aero Technology and Business Management

Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH

**PROFESSIONAL LICENSES**

* Airline Transport Pilot: LR-JET, CE560XL type ratings
* Advanced & Instrument Ground Instructor
* Certified Flight Instructor
* FAR 135 Instructor Pilot / Check Airman
* Designed Employee Representative
* Epsilon Pi Tau
* Six Sigma White Belt Trained
* Project Management Inst.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

2015 to 2022 Ohio State University, Columbus OH

Aviation Capstone Coordinator, Aviation Curriculum Development &

Lecturer (Retired)

1999 to present PilotResources, Inc., Etna OH

President and Founder

2017 to present FlightSafety International, Columbus OH

Pilot Instructor, Training Checking Evaluator CE560XL programs

2022 to present Optimal Aviation, Ann Arbor MI

Director, Aviation Training

2015 to 2017 AirNet II, LLC, Columbus OH Director, Operations

2012 to 2014 AirNet Systems, Inc, Columbus OH

Vice President, Operations

2005 to 2012 AirNet Systems, Inc, Columbus OH

Director, Operations

2002 to 2005 AirNet Systems, Inc, Columbus OH

Chief Pilot

2000 to 2002 AirNet Systems, Inc, Columbus OH

Assistant Chief Pilot

1992 to 2000 AirNet Systems, Inc, Columbus OH

Instructor Pilot/Checkairman

1990 to 1992 AirNet Systems, Inc, Columbus OH

Line Pilot, Captain

**FLIGHT TIME ACCUMULATED**

PIC 8,200

SIC 500

Turboprop PIC 360

Turbojet PIC 850

Instrument 640

Turbojet 1,350

Flight Instructor 2,300+

**Total Flight Time 8,800+**

Dear USCIS,

I write this letter on behalf of Matteo Severini in support of his application for a National Interest Waiver to advance his proposed endeavor as an airline pilot in the aviation industry. I strongly endorse his plans to contribute his expertise and services within the field of aviation.

I am providing this opinion letter based on my experience in Aeronautical Science and Aviation.

Regarding my academic background, I obtained a Bachelor of Science in Aero Technology and Business Management at Bowling Green State University in Ohio, in addition to a Master of Business Administration in Transportation, Logistics, and Operations Management from Ohio State University.

My professional career has been dedicated to Aviation and Aeronautical Science. I have extensive work experience as a lecturer and pilot for the last 40 years. I am a versatile educator and management professional specializing in aviation with over 20 years of experience teaching, instructing, and leading operations units focused on driving success-oriented, high-level individual, class, group, and team performance.

Throughout the years of my professional experience, in addition to more than 30 years serving the aviation industry as an instructor pilot and pilot evaluator, I have become highly competent in operations and logistics management, cross-functional team leadership, creative solution formulation, time and resource optimization, and project management. Furthermore, I have accumulated over 8,000 flight hours as an airline transport pilot and possess an in-depth knowledge of P&L management, operations integration, and safety program development.

Furthermore, I have integrated charter, cargo, and business operation management and marketing principles into Aviation Management & Marketing Curriculum; integrated project management principles into the Aviation Capstone Curriculum; formed and led a cross-functional group to optimize air and ground networks resulting in an average of $5 million annual savings; and initiated a plan to improve training programs, including migrating many to internet-based solutions, to increase standardization, team performance and reduce annual costs by more than $150,000.

As an evaluator, I am responsible for reviewing academic and experiential qualifications to form part of a candidate’s credential evaluation report, providing a detailed analysis of the academic background and occupational experience that a person has received outside the United States. My opinions are limited to the information that I received and my educational and professional experience and judgment. The documents that I have reviewed for Matteo Severini are:

1. Resume of Matteo Severini
2. Employment records
3. Proof of membership in associations
4. Support letters
5. Pilot Licenses and other certifications/ratings
6. Academic records

Through my academic and professional experience, I have developed expert knowledge in analyzing, evaluating, and characterizing job duties, responsibilities, qualifications, and expertise. Therefore, I am qualified to issue an opinion on the level and significance of Matteo Severini’s ability as well as evaluate the appropriateness of granting him a National Interest Waiver.

Throughout this letter, I will provide an analysis and advisory evaluation of his exceptional ability and eligibility for a National Interest Waiver.

The United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) states that a beneficiary may qualify for the exceptional ability visa preference classification if:

* He or she has exceptional ability in the sciences, arts, or business;
* He or she will substantially benefit the national economy, cultural or educational interests, or welfare of the United States in the future; and
* His or her services in one of those fields are sought by an employer in the United States.

The term exceptional ability is defined as a degree of expertise significantly above that ordinarily encountered in the sciences, arts, or business. This standard is lower than the standard for extraordinary ability classification.

The initial evidence must include at least three of the following six types of evidence listed in the regulations:

* *An official academic record showing that the beneficiary has a degree, diploma, certificate, or similar award from a college, university, school, or other institution of learning relating to the area of exceptional ability;*
* *Evidence in the form of letter(s) from current or former employer(s) showing that the beneficiary has at least 10 years of full-time experience in the occupation in which he or she is being sought;*
* *A license to practice the profession or certification for a particular profession or occupation;*
* *Evidence that the beneficiary has commanded a salary or other remuneration for services that demonstrates exceptional ability. (To satisfy this criterion, the evidence must show that the beneficiary has commanded a salary or remuneration for services that is indicative of his or her claimed exceptional ability relative to others working in the field);*
* *Evidence of membership in professional associations; and*
* *Evidence of recognition for achievements and significant contributions to the industry or field by peers, governmental entities, or professional or business organizations.*

**The proposed endeavor**

Upon being granted residency, Matteo Severini plans to serve as an airline pilot for a U.S.-based commercial airline specializing in the transportation of passengers, cargo, or freight. In this capacity, Matteo Severini will assume full responsibility for overseeing the flight crew and ensuring the safety and efficiency of each flight. His duties will encompass comprehensive pre- and post-flight inspections, including verifying aircraft balance, weight compliance, fuel levels, and weather conditions. Additionally, Matteo Severini will be tasked with creating and managing flight plans in close coordination with air traffic controllers, maintaining clear and effective communication to ensure smooth operations during takeoffs, landings, and in-flight adjustments.

Furthermore, Matteo Severini will focus on the operational readiness of aircraft, monitoring system functions such as engines and fuel usage, and adjusting flight plans as necessary to accommodate unexpected weather changes or other in-flight contingencies. He will also be responsible for detailed record-keeping and post-flight evaluations to maintain high standards of safety and operational efficiency. Given his extensive experience in training fellow pilots, Matteo Severini also intends to contribute to alleviating the current shortage of aviation instructors in the United States, potentially addressing the industry's pressing need for qualified personnel. As a licensed Boeing 737 pilot, Matteo Severini is ideally positioned to support regional U.S. routes, which are essential for connecting rural communities but are currently threatened by pilot shortages. His specialized skill set aligns with the operational needs of the U.S. aviation industry, where he can bring immediate value by enhancing regional connectivity and supporting the national economy through reliable commercial air service.

The aviation industry in the United States represents a critical component of the national economy, facilitating both domestic and international commerce, tourism, and connectivity. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), commercial air transportation alone contributes approximately $1.5 trillion annually to the U.S. economy and supports over 10 million jobs, reflecting the extensive influence of this sector on economic growth and stability. U.S. airlines transported 674 million passengers in 2021, a significant recovery from the 2020 downturn caused by the pandemic. This surge in passenger volume underscores the industry's essential role in connecting cities and regions, supporting tourism, and facilitating business across the nation. Major carriers and regional airlines alike serve an expansive network, with commercial air transportation providing critical links for both urban centers and rural communities across the U.S.

The commercial air transportation sector also faces challenges, particularly in maintaining an adequate and skilled workforce. The United States has been experiencing a substantial pilot shortage that has intensified in recent years. This shortage results from an aging pilot population, an increased number of retirements, and a reduction in the number of new pilots entering the workforce. According to the Regional Airline Association (RAA), the industry could face a shortage of nearly 12,000 pilots by 2023, a situation that has already led some airlines to cut routes and reduce service, especially to smaller regional airports. This issue not only impacts the industry but also the national economy and the accessibility of air travel for many rural areas. The shortage places pressure on airlines to recruit and train new pilots quickly while adhering to strict safety and regulatory standards.

The pilot training sector plays a pivotal role in addressing this workforce gap and ensuring a steady flow of qualified pilots to meet the increasing demands of the industry. Pilot training in the United States requires substantial investment, as it involves comprehensive coursework, rigorous simulator sessions, and extensive in-flight training hours. To earn an Airline Transport Pilot (ATP) license, pilots are required by the FAA to complete a minimum of 1,500 hours of flight experience, a standard designed to ensure the highest levels of safety and proficiency. However, the high cost and time commitment associated with meeting these requirements can be prohibitive for many aspiring pilots. Industry reports indicate that the total cost of pilot training in the U.S. can range between $80,000 and $100,000, creating a significant barrier to entry and contributing to the ongoing shortage. In response, some airlines and training institutions have implemented cadet programs, scholarships, and other financial assistance initiatives to attract new candidates to the field.

Technological advancements are also influencing pilot training, with the integration of advanced flight simulators and virtual reality platforms that allow trainees to practice real-world scenarios in a controlled environment. These innovations can enhance pilot preparedness and provide cost-effective training solutions, particularly beneficial for regional airlines struggling to meet demand. The FAA has recognized the potential of these technologies and is actively working on regulatory frameworks that incorporate modern training tools while ensuring that safety remains the top priority. The emphasis on enhanced training methodologies reflects an industry-wide commitment to preparing pilots to handle the complexities of modern aviation.

The U.S. aviation industry’s commercial air transportation and pilot training sectors are central to sustaining the nation’s economic infrastructure and connectivity. The current and anticipated demand for pilots highlights the importance of addressing training barriers and implementing sustainable workforce strategies. The pilot shortage presents a challenge to the industry, but it also creates an opportunity for growth and innovation in training methodologies. As these sectors evolve, they remain integral to the stability and resilience of the broader aviation industry and the U.S. economy at large.

**An official academic record showing that the beneficiary has a degree, diploma, certificate, or similar award from a college, university, school, or other institution of learning relating to the area of exceptional ability;**

Matteo Severini has achieved a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering with a specialization in Power Engineering from E-Campus Telematic University. Matteo Severini completed the degree requirements and passed the final examination on March 1, 2023, under the academic year 2021/2022, accumulating a total of 180 university credits over a legally defined study period of three years. This certification, issued in Novedrate on April 29, 2023, serves as an official record attesting to Matteo Severini's educational qualification, substantiating his academic foundation in an area directly relevant to his exceptional abilities in the field of engineering.

**A license to practice the profession or certification for a particular profession or occupation**

The documents provided certify Matteo Severini’s qualifications to practice in the aviation profession, highlighting his credentials as a licensed examiner and pilot in accordance with stringent European and Irish regulatory standards. Matteo Severini holds an Examiner Certificate issued by the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), which grants him the authority to conduct examinations, skill tests, proficiency checks, and assessments of competence for B737 300-900 series aircraft. This certification, valid until September 30, 2024, attests to Matteo Severini’s expertise and his role as a trusted examiner for professional pilots within this aircraft category.

Additionally, Matteo Severini is authorized by the IAA as an English Language Assessor (ELA) for pilots and flight engineers. This certification allows him to assess English language proficiency for aviation personnel, ensuring they meet international standards set by ICAO and JAR regulations. The authority to conduct these assessments underscores his competence and trustworthiness in maintaining safety and communication standards critical in the aviation industry.

The IAA has also issued Matteo Severini an EASA-compliant Flight Crew Licence, recognized across the European Union. This license, backed by ICAO standards, enables Matteo Severini to operate as a commercial pilot with single-pilot privileges, qualifying him to perform in a range of capacities, including airline transport operations.

Matteo Severini’s medical certification, issued by the Swiss Federal Office of Civil Aviation (FOCA), ensures that he meets all necessary health requirements, allowing him to operate under Class 1 (CPL/ATPL) and Class 2 (PPL) standards. This certification is valid until October 11, 2024, with the LAPL certification extending until October 11, 2028. These credentials collectively highlight Matteo Severini’s extensive qualifications and regulatory compliance, positioning him as a highly skilled and certified professional within the aviation field.

**Evidence in the form of letter(s) from current or former employer(s) showing that the beneficiary has at least 10 years of full-time experience in the occupation in which he or she is being sought**

The letter from Ryanair, dated January 8, 2024, confirms Matteo Severini’s long-standing employment with the company, specifically within the Flight Operations Department. The document affirms that Matteo Severini has served as a Captain since March 16, 2017, solidifying his ongoing and active role in a leadership capacity within Ryanair’s flight operations. Issued by Beatriz Arranz Gómez, HR Generalist, this letter verifies Matteo Severini’s full-time experience in the aviation sector, specifically in his role as a Captain, underscoring his professional stability and expertise in the industry.

In combination with previous roles as a First Officer, Line Training Captain, and Flight Crew Training Manager, Matteo Severini’s career with Ryanair substantiates a comprehensive trajectory in aviation exceeding ten years. The consistent responsibilities he has undertaken—spanning operational command, training management, and leadership—highlight his qualifications and align with the advanced expertise sought in his field. This letter therefore serves as essential evidence of Matteo Severini's professional experience and dedication to his occupation as a high-skilled aviation expert and leader.

**Evidence of membership in professional associations**

The document issued by the Associazione Nazionale Professionale Aviazione Civile (ANPAC), dated December 28, 2023, certifies Matteo Severini's membership in this professional aviation association. ANPAC, recognized as a leading organization in Italy for professionals in the civil aviation sector, provides a collective platform for pilots, flight engineers, and other aviation experts, advocating for their professional standards, rights, and development.

Matteo Severini's membership in ANPAC not only signifies his commitment to the aviation profession but also highlights his alignment with a network of recognized experts who prioritize safety, technical proficiency, and regulatory adherence within the industry. Being part of ANPAC underscores Matteo Severini's dedication to maintaining the highest professional standards, as ANPAC membership is generally held by professionals who have achieved a recognized level of competence and contribute to the advancement of civil aviation practices in Italy and internationally.

This affiliation serves as formal evidence of Matteo Severini's standing in a respected professional association, thereby enhancing his credentials in the aviation field and further supporting his qualifications as a leader and expert in his occupation.

**Evidence of recognition for achievements and significant contributions to the industry or field by peers, governmental entities, or professional or business organizations**

The reference letters provided for Matteo Severini demonstrate significant peer recognition of his achievements and contributions within the aviation industry. Each letter, authored by experienced professionals and high-ranking individuals in aviation, reflects his respected status and notable impact on his field.

Alessandro Frisani, Chief Theoretical Knowledge Instructor at Sky Services Flight Academy, states:

*"Matteo Severini has consistently demonstrated an outstanding depth of knowledge in aviation theory and its practical applications. His contributions to our training programs are invaluable, as he excels in breaking down complex aviation concepts into effective instructional methods. Matteo Severini's dedication to excellence has resulted in high student performance, which is frequently recognized by positive feedback from trainees and instructors alike. His role in advancing our theoretical training program has been instrumental in elevating Sky Services Flight Academy's standards. Matteo Severini's leadership qualities and commitment to maintaining safety and operational excellence are commendable. His organizational skills and ability to manage diverse teams make him an asset in both academic and professional settings. Matteo Severini’s ability to navigate challenging situations with poise has inspired his colleagues and set an example within the industry. His professionalism, attention to detail, and reliability under pressure distinguish him as a role model for aspiring pilots. The high standards he upholds contribute significantly to the quality and reputation of our training programs. Matteo Severini's dedication to the aviation field makes him a respected figure among his peers and students."*

Benjamin Minelli, Base Captain at Ryanair, states:

*"Matteo Severini’s commitment to aviation safety and operational precision has made him an invaluable asset to Ryanair. His extensive expertise on the Boeing 737 and his role as an instructor and examiner are a testament to his knowledge and dedication. Matteo Severini’s attention to safety protocols and his ability to train pilots on these protocols have enhanced our operational standards. His interpersonal skills have fostered a collaborative and positive work environment within Ryanair. Matteo Severini is known for his adaptability and calm demeanor, which are especially valued in high-stress situations. His leadership as a Line Training Captain has contributed to the growth and skill development of numerous Ryanair pilots. Matteo Severini’s dedication to continuous improvement is evident, as he proactively seeks ways to enhance his knowledge and stay updated on industry advancements. His influence extends beyond individual training sessions; he has positively impacted Ryanair’s overall training framework. His contributions are frequently recognized by colleagues and superiors who rely on his expertise. Matteo Severini’s achievements in aviation training and operations continue to strengthen Ryanair’s commitment to excellence."*

Guido Felisatti, Regional Training Manager at Ryanair, states:

*"Matteo Severini has been a crucial figure in our team, where his progression from Captain to Regional Training Manager reflects his exceptional skills and dedication. His impact on Ryanair’s training programs is profound, as he consistently ensures our pilots receive the highest quality instruction. Matteo Severini’s expertise as a Type Rating Instructor and Examiner for the Boeing 737 has been pivotal in maintaining our standards of safety and excellence. His understanding of aviation regulations is comprehensive, and he uses this knowledge to guide and mentor other pilots effectively. Matteo Severini's leadership skills are commendable, especially in his role managing training for a large team of instructors and analysts. His contributions to safety practices have been recognized across Ryanair, as he diligently applies corrective actions to improve training outcomes. Matteo Severini’s organizational skills allow him to oversee multiple training activities efficiently. His dedication to maintaining high standards is reflected in the successful training and professional growth of his team. Matteo Severini's influence has helped Ryanair uphold its reputation as a reliable airline. His achievements in aviation training contribute significantly to the development of aviation professionals under his guidance."*

Maurizio Balestreri, Chief Instructor at Sky Services Flight Academy, states:

*"I have known Matteo Severini since his early days as a student, and his journey in aviation has been marked by continuous excellence and dedication. Matteo Severini consistently scored top marks during his training, reflecting his commitment to mastering aviation principles. His transition from student to captain and instructor was swift due to his outstanding performance and enthusiasm for the field. Matteo Severini’s work as a Theoretical Knowledge Instructor has brought an advanced level of understanding to our academy. His ability to simplify complex topics makes him an exceptional educator who leaves a lasting impact on students. Matteo Severini’s contributions to aviation training are widely recognized by both colleagues and trainees, who praise his instructional approach. His enthusiasm for teaching and aviation has made him a valued figure at Sky Services. Matteo Severini’s knowledge and approachability create an ideal learning environment, fostering both curiosity and discipline among students. His high standards for professionalism and safety are qualities that resonate throughout our institution. Matteo Severini's dedication to his students and commitment to advancing aviation education make him a respected leader in our academy."*

Andrea Foffa, Captain at Bluebird Nordic, states:

*"Matteo Severini’s influence within the aviation industry is evident from the very beginning of his career. As a mentor and instructor, Matteo Severini has played a critical role in my own training and in the development of numerous Ryanair pilots. His ability to convey complex aviation concepts with clarity is unparalleled. Matteo Severini’s commitment to safety and excellence has established him as a role model for his peers. His dedication to high standards ensures that his trainees are well-prepared for their roles. Matteo Severini’s professionalism and positive attitude inspire others and contribute to a collaborative work culture. His efforts in enhancing pilot training are widely recognized by colleagues who have benefited from his expertise. Matteo Severini’s influence extends beyond his own duties, impacting the airline's overall approach to training and operations. His achievements in the field make him a respected figure among peers and trainees alike. Matteo Severini’s passion for aviation continues to drive improvements in training standards, reflecting his commitment to the industry's growth."*

Federico Fasser, Captain and Check Airman at Bluebird Nordic, states:

*"Matteo Severini's contributions to aviation training and operations are remarkable and widely acknowledged. His proactive approach to problem-solving in high-stakes situations sets him apart from others. Matteo Severini’s thorough understanding of aviation regulations and best practices makes him an effective and reliable instructor. His dedication to continuous improvement is evident in his meticulous attention to detail. Matteo Severini’s linguistic skills in multiple languages enhance his communication abilities, both in-flight and on the ground. His positive attitude and dedication to collaboration foster a supportive and efficient team environment. Matteo Severini’s teaching skills are exceptional, allowing him to effectively transfer his knowledge to other pilots. His focus on safety and standards has consistently benefited both his trainees and his organization. Matteo Severini’s achievements in training and leadership are highly valued by his peers. His contributions to the aviation industry exemplify the qualities of an ideal professional dedicated to advancing his field."*

These letters clearly reflect Matteo Severini's recognition by peers for his achievements and significant contributions within the aviation industry. Each endorsement highlights his dedication to safety, excellence, and continuous improvement, positioning him as a distinguished professional whose impact is valued by colleagues and trainees alike. The content of these letters aligns with the criterion for recognition for achievements and contributions, affirming Matteo Severini’s respected status and influential role within his field.

**Conclusion**

Matteo Severini demonstrates a clear and substantiated case for meeting the requirements of exceptional ability in his field, based on the evidence provided and the definition of exceptional ability as outlined by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). His expertise in aviation, particularly in areas of flight operations, pilot training, and safety management, is significantly above the level typically encountered. Matteo Severini’s career reflects over a decade of dedicated service, during which he has assumed increasingly complex roles. His progression from pilot to Captain, Instructor, and eventually Regional Training Manager at Ryanair underscores his exceptional command of both practical and theoretical aviation principles. The consistent recognition from industry peers and senior professionals attests to his specialized skills, particularly in training future pilots and implementing high safety standards that benefit both his organization and the broader aviation sector.

The reference letters from Matteo Severini’s colleagues and superiors, such as Benjamin Minelli, Guido Felisatti, and Alessandro Frisani, confirm his reputation as an influential figure within the industry. These endorsements highlight his impact on safety protocols, training quality, and regulatory adherence, which are fundamental aspects of aviation that extend beyond typical operational duties. Matteo Severini’s ability to convey complex concepts, coupled with his instructional expertise, has been instrumental in shaping high-caliber pilots and enhancing aviation safety practices. The testimonials emphasize his proactive approach, professionalism, and commitment to excellence, illustrating a depth of expertise that exceeds conventional standards. These qualities are pivotal in ensuring that Matteo Severini’s contributions to aviation will continue to resonate in the field, particularly within training and safety frameworks.

Furthermore, Matteo Severini’s potential to contribute to the United States aligns with the USCIS requirement that an individual’s exceptional ability must substantially benefit the national economy, cultural or educational interests, or welfare of the United States. As a highly skilled aviation professional, Matteo Severini’s role in training and regulatory compliance holds significant value within the United States aviation sector, where his expertise can elevate pilot education and operational safety standards. His background in managing large-scale training programs and overseeing adherence to rigorous safety regulations equips him with skills that directly support the public safety and reliability of the national aviation infrastructure. As the United States continually seeks to enhance its aviation standards and address a growing demand for qualified aviation professionals, Matteo Severini’s qualifications and experience make him a valuable asset whose skills align with these national interests.

Given the evidence of his achievements, the recognition from professional associations, and the endorsements from industry peers, Matteo Severini meets the standard of exceptional ability in the field of aviation. His specialized expertise and experience offer benefits that extend beyond the ordinary, fulfilling the USCIS criteria for a degree of expertise that significantly surpasses typical expectations in his industry. As such, Matteo Severini possesses the credentials, recognition, and potential impact required to qualify for the exceptional ability classification under USCIS guidelines, positioning him as a valuable contributor to the United States aviation field.

**Matteo Severini will work in an area of substantial merit and national importance**

**Matteo Severini's proposed endeavor in the field of aviation, specifically within commercial air transportation and pilot training, holds significant national and global implications.** The aviation industry is a cornerstone of the U.S. economy, contributing approximately $1.8 trillion in total economic activity and supporting over 10 million jobs, as reported by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). This sector facilitates essential connectivity, commerce, and tourism, underscoring its national importance.

Globally, the aviation industry is experiencing a substantial pilot shortage. A 2022 report by Oliver Wyman projected a deficit of 34,000 pilots worldwide by 2025, with North America facing the most severe shortfall. This shortage threatens the operational capacity of airlines, potentially leading to reduced services and economic repercussions. In the U.S., regional airlines have already been compelled to cut routes due to pilot scarcity, affecting connectivity for smaller communities.

By contributing his expertise as a seasoned pilot and trainer, Matteo Severini addresses this critical workforce gap. His involvement in pilot training enhances the pipeline of qualified professionals, directly impacting the industry's ability to meet growing demand. This endeavor not only supports the U.S. aviation sector but also contributes to global efforts in maintaining robust and safe air transportation networks.

In summary, Matteo Severini's proposed work in aviation holds substantial merit and national importance, with far-reaching implications for the industry's stability and growth both domestically and internationally.

**Matteo Severini's proposed endeavor in the U.S. aviation industry holds significant potential to employ U.S. workers and generate substantial positive economic effects.** By addressing the critical shortage of qualified pilots and contributing to the training of new aviators, his efforts can help stabilize and expand the workforce within this essential sector. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has projected a need for 18,500 new pilots annually over the next decade to meet increasing demand and replace retiring personnel. By participating in pilot training and mentorship, Matteo Severini can directly influence the development of a skilled labor force, thereby supporting employment opportunities for U.S. workers in related fields such as flight instruction, aircraft maintenance, and airport operations.

The economic impact of bolstering the aviation workforce extends beyond direct employment. The aviation industry contributes approximately $1.8 trillion annually to the U.S. economy, supporting over 10 million jobs across various sectors, according to the FAA. Enhancing pilot availability ensures the continuity and expansion of air services, which in turn facilitates commerce, tourism, and regional connectivity. This continuity is vital for maintaining and potentially increasing the industry's contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Moreover, a robust aviation sector attracts investments in infrastructure, technology, and services, further stimulating economic growth.

Conversely, a lack of investment in pilot training and recruitment can have detrimental effects on the American economy. The ongoing pilot shortage has led some airlines to reduce routes, particularly to smaller communities, limiting access to air travel and hindering economic development in those areas. For instance, the Regional Airline Association reported that 76% of U.S. airports have experienced air service reductions due to pilot shortages, affecting local businesses and tourism. By contributing to the training and integration of new pilots into the workforce, Matteo Severini's endeavor addresses these challenges, promoting economic stability and growth within the aviation industry and the broader economy.

**Matteo Severini's proposed endeavor has the potential to broadly enhance societal welfare by strengthening the accessibility, safety, and reliability of air travel in the United States.** With his extensive experience in aviation training and safety, Matteo Severini’s work contributes directly to maintaining high safety standards within the industry. A well-trained and experienced pilot workforce is essential not only for the efficient functioning of commercial air services but also for ensuring that passengers can travel with confidence in the safety of their flights. His role in enhancing pilot training practices will lead to safer skies, reducing the risk of accidents and operational disruptions, which is vital for public welfare.

In addition to safety, Matteo Severini’s contribution to the aviation workforce can help address the ongoing pilot shortage, which has led to reduced air service to many rural and remote communities. Access to reliable air transportation connects people to essential services, healthcare, and educational opportunities that might otherwise be difficult to reach. By working to alleviate these service limitations, Matteo Severini’s endeavor supports greater social inclusion and connectivity, ensuring that more communities across the U.S. can access the benefits of modern air travel. This connectivity supports family cohesion, community access to specialized medical care, and broader cultural exchange as people can more readily travel, communicate, and engage across distances.

Moreover, as air travel often serves as a gateway to cultural enrichment, Matteo Severini’s efforts contribute to a thriving transportation infrastructure that allows individuals and families to experience cultural landmarks, events, and activities across the nation. The aviation industry serves as a conduit for cultural exchange, tourism, and knowledge sharing, and by supporting the development of a stable and competent pilot workforce, Matteo Severini’s work indirectly bolsters these exchanges. The long-term societal benefits of accessible, safe, and reliable air travel underscore the positive impact that his endeavor could have on the welfare and cultural enrichment of the United States.

**Matteo Severini's proposed endeavor directly addresses the critical issue of pilot shortages, a matter that the United States government has identified as having national importance.** The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has acknowledged the pressing need for qualified pilots to meet the growing demands of the aviation industry. In response, the FAA has implemented initiatives such as the Forces to Flyers program, which aims to train military veterans as commercial pilots to mitigate the shortage.

Furthermore, the U.S. Department of Transportation has recognized the pilot shortage as a significant concern, with Secretary Pete Buttigieg highlighting efforts to address workforce challenges in the aviation sector. These initiatives underscore the government's commitment to ensuring a robust and capable pilot workforce to maintain the safety and efficiency of the national airspace system.

By contributing his expertise to pilot training and development, Matteo Severini aligns his efforts with these national initiatives, supporting the government's objectives to enhance the aviation workforce and address a matter of national importance.

**Matteo Severini's proposed endeavor meets the requirements of substantial merit and national importance, as it aligns with pressing national concerns within the U.S. aviation industry.** The pilot shortage that the U.S. faces is a matter recognized at the highest levels of government, with initiatives such as the Department of Transportation’s "Forces to Flyers" program explicitly addressing the need for skilled pilots. This shortage affects the economic stability of regional and national air transportation, influencing accessibility and reliability across the country. As an experienced pilot and aviation instructor, Matteo Severini’s contribution to training and expanding the aviation workforce is directly relevant to these national priorities, ensuring safety, reliability, and capacity within the commercial air transportation sector.

Moreover, the FAA’s acknowledgment of an 18,500 annual pilot demand underscores the substantial merit of endeavors in pilot training and retention, as the availability of qualified pilots supports essential services, business operations, and regional connectivity. Matteo Severini’s experience aligns with these national goals, as he can offer high-quality training and bring a seasoned perspective to safety and operational standards. His role has the potential to enhance public welfare and safety within the U.S. aviation infrastructure, showing his endeavor’s prospective impact on the aviation industry. Therefore, Matteo Severini’s work embodies both substantial merit and national importance, contributing directly to a field identified by government agencies as crucial to the U.S. economy and public well-being.

**Matteo Severini is well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor**

Matteo Severini is indeed well-positioned to advance the proposed endeavor, given his extensive background, specialized skills, and proven success in the aviation industry. With over a decade of experience as a commercial airline pilot and an instructor, Matteo Severini has established a record of excellence in both flight operations and pilot training. His educational foundation, which includes a Bachelor’s Degree in Industrial Engineering with a focus on Power Engineering, complements his technical expertise in aviation and strengthens his ability to implement safety and efficiency standards in pilot training. Additionally, his experience in regulatory compliance and operational safety aligns directly with the needs of the U.S. aviation industry, where rigorous safety standards are paramount.

Matteo Severini has also demonstrated a clear plan for future activities, focusing on mitigating the pilot shortage and enhancing training standards within the industry. His role as a training captain and instructor highlights his proactive approach to addressing workforce shortages by contributing to the development of qualified pilots. This dedication to advancing the pilot workforce has already garnered recognition from peers and supervisors, affirming the trust and respect he commands within his field. Furthermore, with the U.S. Department of Transportation’s and FAA’s initiatives targeting pilot recruitment and training, Matteo Severini’s expertise is well-aligned with current national interests, underscoring the relevance of his skills and knowledge in achieving this endeavor. Matteo Severini’s qualifications, experience, and strategic focus strongly position him to contribute meaningfully to the U.S. aviation sector, affirming his readiness to advance the proposed endeavor.

**Waiving the job offer and labor certification requirements for Matteo Severini would be beneficial to the U.S.**

It would be beneficial for the United States to waive the job offer and labor certification requirements for Matteo Severini, considering the critical role he can play in addressing the pressing pilot shortage and enhancing training standards within the aviation industry. The nature of his qualifications, including his extensive experience as a pilot, instructor, and safety-focused aviation professional, makes him a valuable asset to the U.S. workforce. Given the shortage of qualified pilots and flight instructors, which is a documented concern affecting regional connectivity and the stability of air services, Matteo Severini’s contributions align directly with national interests and address an urgent need. The aviation sector’s reliance on highly skilled professionals like Matteo Severini makes the labor certification process less practical, as the demand for trained, experienced instructors and pilots currently outpaces the supply of U.S. workers available to fill these roles.

Additionally, even if qualified U.S. workers were available, the United States would still benefit from Matteo Severini’s contributions. His specialized expertise in pilot training and regulatory compliance is difficult to replicate and brings significant value to both commercial air transportation and training efforts. His ability to enhance pilot safety and efficiency standards contributes positively to the entire aviation workforce, creating a safer, more reliable industry. Since Matteo Severini’s contributions complement the current workforce without displacing U.S. workers, waiving the labor certification requirement enables the U.S. to harness his skill set for broader benefit without creating employment competition.

Furthermore, the national interest in enhancing the pilot workforce and addressing aviation safety challenges is both substantial and time-sensitive. As government initiatives like the “Forces to Flyers” program highlight, there is an immediate need for skilled pilots and instructors to support and expand U.S. air services. Matteo Severini’s work not only aligns with these goals but also contributes to the stability and resilience of the aviation industry, which is essential for economic growth, regional connectivity, and public welfare. Thus, on balance, waiving the job offer and labor certification requirements for Matteo Severini would bring substantial benefits to the United States, allowing him to address national priorities in aviation with efficiency and expertise.

**Conclusion**

Matteo Severini meets the three requirements established by USCIS for a National Interest Waiver. His proposed endeavor in the aviation industry has both substantial merit and national importance. As the U.S. faces a critical shortage of qualified pilots and instructors, Matteo Severini’s expertise in commercial air transportation and pilot training directly addresses this pressing need. With a proven track record in safety, operational excellence, and workforce development, his contributions align with national interests. By enhancing pilot availability and training, Matteo Severini’s work supports the stability of essential air services, economic growth, and community connectivity, which are crucial to U.S. infrastructure and public welfare.

Matteo Severini is well-positioned to advance this endeavor due to his extensive qualifications and demonstrated success in the aviation field. With more than a decade of experience as a pilot, instructor, and regulatory expert, he has built a robust foundation that aligns with current national priorities. His background in technical and theoretical aviation training, combined with a clear model for future activities, places him in a unique position to elevate the quality and accessibility of pilot training in the U.S. His record of success, commitment to regulatory compliance, and ability to train skilled aviators demonstrate that he is equipped to make significant contributions in the field. His skills and dedication resonate with the FAA’s and Department of Transportation’s workforce initiatives, underscoring his readiness to advance the proposed endeavor in meaningful ways.

Waiving the job offer and labor certification requirements for Matteo Severini would bring substantial benefits to the United States. The urgent need for skilled pilots and instructors renders the labor certification process less practical, as the demand far exceeds the supply of qualified U.S. workers. His expertise offers unique value that complements and enhances the existing workforce without displacing U.S. employees. Furthermore, his work supports national priorities in aviation safety and workforce development, which have been identified as essential for economic and public welfare. Given the strategic importance and time sensitivity of these contributions, waiving the traditional requirements allows the U.S. to gain immediate advantages from his expertise, benefiting both the aviation industry and the nation as a whole.

The foregoing is an analysis and advisory evaluation of Matteo Severini’s request for a National Interest Waiver based on documents provided by him as well as information based on my research. The documents are represented to be authentic copies of the original documents.

To the best of my knowledge, I have no reason to doubt the authenticity and accuracy of these documents.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

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Thomas Schaner

Aviation Capstone Coordinator & Lecturer

November 8, 2024

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