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Office of Aviation Safety, Eastern Region

Date: SEPTEMBER 16, 2024

Subject: NTSB# ERA24LA376

Contact: Brian Zetocha (Passenger, Pilot Rated)

The individual noted above provided the following information via a telephone interview. The below contents are a summary of what was reported:

- It was a routine flight. Fly to Asheville and back.
- He has about 300 hours in this airplane.
- It was a normal preflight.
- Start-up, run-up, everything was normal. Taxi was normal.
- He was working the comms on the radios for the flight.
- Takeoff roll was normal, green instruments.
- Airspeed was coming up. He saw red line plus 5 knots, saw the pilot flying pull back and then the nose strut settled down almost immediately. The pilot flying pulled power to idle. The props then struck the runway.
- Smoke filled the cabin from skidding down the runway.
- The gear completely folded and retracted
- Gear selector was down for the entire flight.
- He did not see the pilot move his hand anywhere near the gear selector.
- The airplane does have a gear horn. He did not hear the horn on this flight at any time. The horn is loud, and you can hear it with both engines running in flight.

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