



March 16, 2010

Senator Robert Menendez
United States Senate
SH-528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-3001

Re: FlyersRights.org Supports Amendments to FAA Reauthorization
(1) Prohibiting Airlines from Imposing Surcharges that are Not Correlated
To the Airlines' Cost of Providing Air Transportation; and (2) Requiring Early
Notification of Passengers About All Fees and Taxes to be Added to Airfare

Dear Senator Menendez:

FlyersRights.org, the nation's largest non-profit organization representing airline passengers, has carefully reviewed your Senate Amendment 3505 to the pending FAA Reauthorization Bill that would prohibit airlines from imposing fuel surcharges on passengers in amounts that are not correlated to the actual fuel costs of the airline in providing air transportation.

We strongly support this amendment. In recent years the nation's airlines have imposed so-called "fuel surcharges" on some of their flights but have kept those surcharges in place long after the cost of fuel has substantially declined. If the U.S. Department of Transportation continues to allow the airlines to list and to collect "surcharges," those extra costs must be correlated to the costs actually being paid by the airlines for air transportation, and your amendment would achieve that objective.

Frankly, because the airlines only impose surcharges in certain markets and not on all flights with higher fuel costs, FlyersRights.org believes that DOT should ultimately prohibit all such surcharges and require the airlines just to adjust their fares at will for whatever reasons they determine. "Fuel surcharges" appear just to be a marketing tool and not a carefully calibrated cost-recovery mechanism.

--FlyersRights.org Also Supports SA 3506, Regarding Providing Early Information to Passengers About All Fees, Charges and Taxes to be Added to Airfare

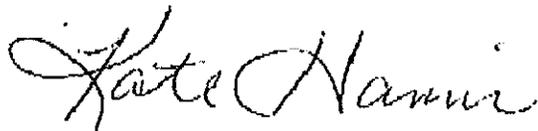
Similarly, we support Senate Amendment 3506, proposed by you and Senator Schumer, that would require the airlines to provide all relevant cost information to the air traveler as early as possible – fees for all ancillary services (baggage, seats with extra leg room, etc.) in addition to the air fare and taxes – and well before the traveler commits to a flight. Passengers have told us that they should have full access to all cost information before deciding to purchase a ticket for a flight.

At the present time, there is no provision in either the House-passed FAA Reauthorization Bill (H.R. 915) or the Senate version as reported by the Commerce Committee that requires that passengers receive this important information before committing to an airline/flight.

This would be an important addition to the Senate bill that would benefit millions of future air travelers. We hope that the best parts of your and Senator Schumer's Amendment 3506 and Sen. Cardin/Landrieu's Senate Amendment 3496, which covers part of the same content, can be included in the Manager's Amendment, voted upon favorably by the Senate and agreed to by the House in the later House-Senate Conference.

Thank you for proposing these important additions to the FAA Reauthorization Bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kate Hamm".

FlyersRights.org
Executive Director
159 Silverado Springs Drive
Napa, CA 94558