



Consumer Federation of America

1620 I Street, N.W., Suite 200 * Washington, DC 20006

March 18, 2010

The Honorable Robert Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

The Consumer Federation of America supports your amendment (No. 3506) to the FAA Reauthorization Act.

Consumers have a right to know the full price they will pay for airline transportation including all taxes and fees. They need to know these fees upfront, before starting the purchasing process, so that they can compare costs of flying between any two cities.

Airline fees are now a significant portion of the overall costs of traveling by air. Many consumers are unaware of the extent of these new fees. When airlines advertise only the basic airfare without any of the additional fees, they are misleading consumers.

Making these fees and taxes available to all ticket agents will allow the full cost of air transportation to be displayed on sites such as expedia.com, orbitz.com, priceline.com, kayak.com and others. Without fee and tax transparency, consumers are left in the dark about the true cost of flying.

This final bill should "require air carriers and ticket agents to notify consumers of all taxes and fees applicable to airline tickets in a timely manner." Then, consumers can make informed decisions about their travel options and the true travel costs.

Sincerely,

Susan Grant
Director of Consumer Protection
Consumer Federation of America