



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONAL

THE WORLD'S LARGEST PILOTS UNION • WWW.ALPA.ORG

1625 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W. • Washington, D.C. 20036 • 703-689-2270 • 888-FLY-ALPA

September 10, 2014

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Judiciary Committee
B-351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Ranking Member Conyers:

The Air Line Pilots Association, Int'l (ALPA), which represents more than 51,000 pilots who fly for 31 airlines in the U.S. and Canada, strongly opposes lifting the current and longstanding prohibition on admitting Libyan nationals to the U.S. for flight training. We are pleased the Judiciary Committee intends to mark up H.R. 5401, the *Protecting the Homeland Act*, codifying the current prohibition into statute and are very supportive of the Committee's actions today.

According to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), a proposed DHS regulation if signed would rescind "the regulatory provisions promulgated in 1983 that terminated the nonimmigrant status and barred the granting of certain immigration benefits to Libyan nationals and foreign nationals acting on behalf of Libyan entities who are engaging in or seeking to obtain studies or training in aviation maintenance, flight operations, or nuclear-related fields." OMB further states that, "The United States Government and the Government of Libya have normalized their relationship and most of the restrictions and sanctions imposed by the United States and the United Nations toward Libya have been lifted.

Therefore, DHS, after consultation with the Department of State and the Department of Defense, is considering rescinding the restrictions that deny nonimmigrant status and benefits to a specific group of Libyan nationals."

Despite what the two governments may be doing to improve their relationship, the country of Libya is still very dangerous as evidenced by the fact that the Department of State (DOS) closed the U.S. embassy in Tripoli a few weeks ago and evacuated all U.S. personnel.

On July 26, the DOS issued a travel warning urging citizens to leave Libya immediately, and several foreign countries have followed suit. Further, there is no indication that the interim Libyan government is regaining control of the country from militias.

It is important to note that the Federal Aviation Administration prohibits U.S. airlines and commercial operators from entering Libyan airspace, a restriction shared with other dangerous countries including North Korea and Iraq.

Any person attempting to come to the U.S. for flight training would necessarily need to undergo a thorough background check. This check serves, among other things, to identify those who might use such training to inflict harm on the U.S. and its allies. Given the political instability in Libya and the transitory nature of the government, ALPA is concerned that information relevant to a background check on Libyan nationals would be unreliable if not entirely unavailable.

While improving government-to-government relationships is laudable, given the current instability and past record of the government and this region, safety and security concerns must never be set aside as a means to build diplomatic ties. We urge this Committee to support H.R. 5401 codifying the current prohibition into statute.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns and we look forward to working with you on this legislation going forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donald Lee Moak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Captain Lee Moak
President