



GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT
AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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July 27, 2010

The Honorable Dan Lungren
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Lungren:

On behalf of nearly 53,000 pilot members who fly for 38 airlines in the U.S. and Canada, the Air Line Pilots Association, International (ALPA) would like to applaud you for sponsoring H.R. 5810, the "Securing Aircraft Cockpits Against Lasers Act of 2010." The inappropriate use of widely available laser pointers against airborne flight crews is a genuine and growing safety and security concern. A laser illumination event can, at a minimum, be an unwanted flight crew distraction, and in serious cases can even lead to eye damage and temporary incapacitation.

ALPA has long maintained that lasing of commercial airliners should be prosecuted at the federal level. Your legislation is greatly needed to ensure that such reckless and malicious activity will, in fact, be classified and prosecuted as a federal offense. We have worked with numerous federal law enforcement organizations over the past several years on this issue and there is strong agreement that such crimes should be addressed by federal statute and not be adjudicated solely by state laws. H.R. 5810 will also help put the public on notice that shining laser lights into aircraft cockpits is a serious offense which will be met with serious consequences for those convicted of such a crime.

Thank you for your leadership on this important initiative. We urge Congress to expeditiously pass this legislation and thereby enhance the safety and security of all commercial airline passengers and crewmembers.

Sincerely,

John H. Prater, President

JHP:eb

cc: The Honorable John Conyers
The Honorable Lamar Smith

