



AIR LINE PILOTS ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL

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December 8, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of the 53,000 professional pilots of the Air Line Pilots Association (ALPA) I have the privilege of representing, we ask that you become a cosponsor of S. 1956, the *European Union Emissions Trading Scheme Prohibition Act of 2011* introduced by Senator Thune.

S. 1956 is an important piece of legislation to aviation workers and our employers. While we support pragmatic efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the European Union Emissions trading Scheme (ETS) that is the subject of this bill is the wrong way to achieve the right objective.

The ETS is a unilaterally-imposed scheme that essentially places a charge on airlines for their services to the EU. It is in contravention of the Chicago Convention and violates the basic principles of state sovereignty set forth in that convention as well as the relevant provisions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Council of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) has adopted a declaration opposing the inclusion in the ETS of flights by non-EU airlines into and out of the EU and has urged the EU to work collaboratively with the rest of the international community to address aviation emissions.

The aviation industry has not recovered from the terrorist attacks of 2001. The industry has had one profitable year since those attacks. Since that fateful day, we have seen the price of aviation fuel increase drastically. These increases have led to several bankruptcies and tens of thousands of jobs lost in the aviation industry. Today, fuel is the number one cost in the aviation industry. While we are supporting cutting-edge development of alternative fuels, at present, there is no alternative available to power an aircraft.

The EU-ETS will hinder our ability to reduce carbon emissions. The EU would collect the fees with no guarantee that the fees would be used to fund emissions reduction research in the aviation industry or implement a more efficient navigation system like Next Gen. Instead, it would lead to fewer flights while decreasing the amount of capital available to invest in more efficient technology like the Boeing 787 Dreamliner which reduces emissions by 20%.

In closing, the slightly different House version of this legislation passed by voice vote. This is an issue with strong bipartisan support. Please contact David Martin, ALPA Legislative Representative at 202-797-4033 should you have any questions. We appreciate your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Captain Lee Moak,
President