

Preflight



Legislative Update

ALPA Calls on U.S. Congress to Support New Bill that Opposes U.S. Customs Preclearance Facility in Abu Dhabi

ALPA is calling on members of Congress to support bipartisan legislation introduced on November 14 that opposes the administration's plan to open a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) preclear-

ance facility at Abu Dhabi International Airport, Al Maktoum International Airport, and Dubai International Airport in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) or at Doha International Airport in Qatar.

ALPA strongly supports the U.S. preclearance locations



The U.S. administration's effort to establish a Customs and Border Protection preclearance facility at Abu Dhabi International Airport would benefit only Etihad Airways, the heavily state-supported national airline, because no U.S. airline currently flies to the airport.

ance facility at Abu Dhabi International Airport.

The bill introduced by **Rep. Patrick Meehan** (R-Pa.) and **Rep. Peter DeFazio** (D-Ore.) would help ensure that U.S. customs preclearance facilities help and do not harm U.S. airlines and their workers in their drive to compete in the global marketplace.

"ALPA commends Rep. Meehan and Rep. DeFazio for their determined leadership in making certain that it's the passengers of U.S. airlines who benefit from U.S. Customs and Border Protection preclearance facilities and not their state-backed foreign competitors," said **Capt. Lee Moak**, ALPA's president.

The legislation requires the U.S. government to perform an analysis of the potential effect on U.S. airlines and CBP staffing before it can establish a new CBP preclearance facility, including any potential facilities at Abu Dhabi International

currently operating in Canada, Ireland, and the Caribbean because each of these airports is served by at least one U.S. airline, and a significant proportion of the passengers traveling to the United States from these airports are flown by U.S. pilots.

In clear contrast, the U.S. administration's effort to establish a CBP preclearance facility at Abu Dhabi International Airport would benefit only Etihad Airways, the heavily state-supported national airline, because no U.S. airline currently flies to the airport. In addition, Etihad already receives powerful economic advantages from its home government that U.S. airlines do not enjoy, including a tax-free business environment.

This bill is not the first time Congress has spoken out expressing strong opposition to CBP facilities that harm U.S. airlines and their passengers while helping U.S. airlines' state-supported foreign competition. Most recently, the U.S. House

passed in June 2013 an amendment that prohibits funding for a preclearance facility at Abu Dhabi International Airport.

In addition, ALPA maintains that federal resources should be used to fully and appropriately staff CBP facilities at domestic airports where chronic and excessively long customs lines may discourage travelers from choosing the United States as a business or leisure destination.

"By allowing international travelers flying to the United States to walk off their plane as a domestic passenger and quickly connect to their domestic flight, a customs preclearance facility presents a significant convenience for airlines to offer

in attracting customers flying to the United States from Asia or the Middle East," continued Moak. "It is U.S. airlines and their employees, not their state-backed foreign competitors, that should benefit from a marketing advantage provided by the U.S. government as they compete to prevail in the global economic arena."

Join the fight to stop the Abu Dhabi preclearance facility. Scan the QR code or go to www.alpa.org/issues to take action and send a message to your representatives and senators. ●



ALPA Lauds U.S. Senate Introduction of Safe Skies Act of 2013

"The Safe Skies Act of 2013 will ensure that both passenger and all-cargo pilots are equally protected from fatigue and that the entire U.S. air transportation system benefits from one level of safety," commented the Association regarding the introduction of the Safe Skies Act (S. 1692) in the U.S. Senate by **Sen. Barbara Boxer** (D-Calif.), **Sen. Maria Cantwell** (D-Wash.), and **Sen. Amy Klobuchar** (D-Minn.).

"Science shows that airline pilots don't suffer from fatigue differently based on whether they fly passengers or cargo on their aircraft. ALPA commends Sen. Boxer and Sen. Cantwell for helping to ensure that all airline pilots have the same level of protection from fatigue by applying the FAA's new flight- and duty-time limits and minimum rest requirements to all pilots.

"We urge every U.S. senator to support this important aviation safety legislation for all who rely on air transportation."

To support this legislation, all ALPA pilots are urged to participate in the Association's Call to Action. For more information and to participate, visit www.alpa.org/issues. ●