

**UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
ROOM 2163 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515**

September 8, 2003

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SHOULD NOT BE CONTRACTED OUT TO THE LOWEST BIDDER!!!

VOTE "NO" ON H.R. 2115

Dear Colleague:

The House will soon be considering the Conference Report on H.R. 2115, the FAA Reauthorization bill. The bill reported by the Conferees includes many important provisions promoting aviation safety and security, and the development of aviation infrastructure. Regrettably, the Conference Report also includes several special interest provisions inserted at the last minute that would undermine aviation safety and security and weaken the strength of the airline industry and its workers. Unless these provisions are removed from the bill, it should be defeated. There is still plenty of time to pass a new bill, without the objectionable provisions, before the end of the fiscal year, when current authorizations end. As a safety net (which has been used in a number of past FAA reauthorizations), it would also be possible to pass a short-term extension to prevent any lapse of authorized programs.

The Conference Report includes a provision, which was not in either the House or Senate bill, allowing FAA to contract out air traffic control at 69 airports across the country. Both the House and Senate bills contained provisions banning any privatization of air traffic control. There is no reason to undercut these provisions and begin dismantling the air traffic control system, which served us so well on September 11, 2001, when FAA controllers safely landed 4,482 aircraft within two hours, without one operational error.

The 69 airports that the Conference Report would allow to be privatized include 11 of the 50 busiest towers in the country: Van Nuys, California (8); Denver/Centennial, Colorado (18); Phoenix/Deer Valley Municipal, Arizona (24); Long Beach, California (31); Orlando/Sanford, Florida (32); Prescott, Arizona (33); Tulsa/Riverside, Oklahoma (35); Mesa, Arizona (41); Seattle/Boeing Field, Washington (42); Grand Forks, North Dakota (43); and Pontiac, Michigan, (46). Van Nuys is the world's busiest general aviation airport served by many large aircraft, including 737s and 757s. It is now an FAA tower employing 23 fulltime controllers.

Significantly, the Conference Report exempts from contracting out two airports in Alaska, which were on the same list as the 69 that can be contracted out. Clearly, the knowledgeable Alaska delegation does not believe that contract service is as safe or efficient as service by FAA air traffic controllers.

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Contrary to representations that have been made, the 69 airports that would be immediately eligible for contracting out are not served exclusively by small general aviation aircraft. 18 of the airports are served by **commercial** carriers, such as Long Beach Daugherty, which is served by America West, American, Delta, and Jet Blue. A list of commercial service airports is attached.

Moreover, the Conference Report undermines a cornerstone of our aviation policy, by allowing foreign airlines to carry cargo between cities in Alaska and other cities in the United States. Since the beginning of commercial aviation, the United States and most other countries have reserved aviation traffic within their borders for the home country airline. This policy has been sustained for reasons of national security as well as competition policy.

The Conference Report also includes a provision making discretionary the mandatory requirements in the Homeland Security Law of 2002 that TSA issue security and anti-terrorism training guidelines for our nation's flight attendants. Carriers were first required to conduct this training by the Aviation and Transportation and Security Act of 2001. The programs have varied widely from carrier to carrier, and some programs have been inadequate. To remedy this problem, the House bill required TSA to develop minimum training requirements. The Conference bill relieves TSA of this obligation. Surely, with the continuing heightened security alert in the airline industry we should not endorse a potential rollback in terrorism training for flight crews.

We must not pass a Conference Report that includes these provisions jeopardizing aviation safety, security, and the competitive position of United States airlines. We urge you to oppose the Conference Report.

Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Democratic Member
Subcommittee on Aviation



James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member

Attachment

AIR CARRIER SERVICE AT 69 AIRPORTS BEING CONTRACTED OUT

State	Origin Airport	Airport Name	Air Carrier
AZ	GCN	Grand Canyon National	Allegiant Air
			Casino Express
			Eagle Canyon Airlines
			Miami Air International
	PRC	Prescott Municipal	Air Midwest, Inc.
CA	LGB	Long Beach Daugherty	Airborne Express, Inc.
			Allegiant Air
			America West Airlines, Inc.
			American Airlines, Inc.
			Antonov Design Bureau
			Casino Express
			Delta Air Lines, Inc.
			Federal Express Corporation
			Freedom Airlines d/b/a HP Expr
			Horizon Air
			Jetblue Airways
			Lynden Air Cargo Airlines
			Mesa Airlines, Inc.
			Miami Air International
			Pace Airlines
			Planet Airways
			Reliant Airlines
			Sky King, Inc.
			United Parcel Service
			USA Jet Airlines, Inc.
	SMF	Sacramento Metropolitan Airport	Air Canada
			Air Wisconsin Airlines Corp
			Airborne Express, Inc.
			Alaska Airlines, Inc.
			Allegiant Air
			Aloha Airlines, Inc.
			America West Airlines, Inc.
			American Airlines, Inc.
			Casino Express
			Compania Mexicana De Aviacion
			Continental Air Lines, Inc.
			Delta Air Lines, Inc.
			DHL Airways
			Federal Express Corporation
			Frontier Airlines, Inc.
			Hawaiian Airlines, Inc.
			Horizon Air
			Lufthansa German Airlines
			Miami Air International
			North American Airlines
			Northwest Airlines, Inc.
			Omni Air Express
			Pace Airlines
			Planet Airways
			Sky King, Inc.
			Skywest Airlines, Inc.
			Southwest Airlines, Co.
			Sun Country Airlines

AIR CARRIER SERVICE AT 69 AIRPORTS BEING CONTRACTED OUT

			United Air Lines, Inc. United Parcel Service Federal Express Corporation Sky West Airlines, Inc.
	STS	Sonoma County Airport	
DE	ILG	Greater Wilmington	Ameristar Air Cargo Pace Airlines Reliant Airlines Southeast Airlines
FL	SFB	Orlando Sanford International Airport	Aeromexico Aeropostal Alas De Venezuel Air 2000 Limited Airtours Int'l Airways Britannia Airways Ltd. Casino Express Jmc Miami Air International Monarch Airlines Mytravel Airways Omni Air Express Pace Airlines Pan American Airways Corp. Planet Airways Southeast Airlines World Airways, Inc.
IN	LAF	Purdue University	American Trans Air, Inc. Casino Express Era Aviation Great Lakes Aviation , Ltd. Mesaba Airlines Miami Air International Midwest Express Airlines Pace Airlines Planet Airways Shuttle America Corp. USA Jet Airlines, Inc.
MA	BED	Laurence G Hanscom Field	Boston-Maine Airways Comair, Inc. Continental Air Lines, Inc. Delta Air Lines, Inc. Miami Air International North American Airlines Northwest Airlines, Inc. Pace Airlines Shuttle America Corp. Sky King, Inc. Transmeridian Airlines
MI	PTK	Oakland/Pontiac Airport	Air Canada Airtran Airways Corporation Ameristar Air Cargo Miami Air International Midwest Express Airlines Northwest Airlines, Inc. Pace Airlines Pan American Airways Corp.

AIR CARRIER SERVICE AT 69 AIRPORTS BEING CONTRACTED OUT

			Planet Airways
			Reliant Airlines
			Shuttle America Corp.
			Sky King, Inc.
			USA Jet Airlines, Inc.
			Ameristar Air Cargo
			Atlantic Coast Airlines
			Atlas Air, Inc.
			Era Aviation
			Express Net Airlines
			Express.Net Airlines
			Gemini Air Cargo Airways
			Kalitta Air Llc
			Lynden Air Cargo Airlines
			Miami Air International
			Midwest Express Airlines
			Omni Air Express
			Pace Airlines
			Reliant Airlines
			Shuttle America Corp.
			Southern Air Inc.
			Tradewinds Airlines
			Transmeridian Airlines
			USA Jet Airlines, Inc.
			World Airways, Inc.
			Zantop International
ND	GFK	Grand Forks International	Casino Express
			Federal Express Corporation
			Mesaba Airlines
			Northwest Airlines, Inc.
			Pace Airlines
			Planet Airways
			Reliant Airlines
			Sun Country Airlines
			USA Jet Airlines, Inc.
NY	FRG	Republic Field	Air Canada
			DHL Airways
			Express Net Airlines
			Midwest Express Airlines
			Planet Airways
			Sky King, Inc.
			Spirit Air Lines
TX	ADS	Addison Airport	Ameristar Air Cargo
			USA Jet Airlines, Inc.
	AFW	Fort Worth Alliance	American Airlines, Inc.
			Antonov Design Bureau
			Empire Airlines, Inc.
			Federal Express Corporation
			Kalitta Air Llc
			Pace Airlines
			Planet Airways
			Southwest Airlines, Co.
			Taquan Air Service
			USA Jet Airlines, Inc.
	FTW	Fort Worth Meacham	Ameristar Air Cargo

AIR CARRIER SERVICE AT 69 AIRPORTS BEING CONTRACTED OUT

			Eagle Canyon Airlines Planet Airways USA Jet Airlines, Inc. Zantop International
WA	PAE	Snohomish Co Paine Field	Alaska Airlines, Inc. Ameristar Air Cargo Kalitta Air Llc USA Jet Airlines, Inc. Zantop International
	BFI	King County Airport/Boeing Field	West Isle Air Harbor Airlines, Inc.

Note: FZZ, SDL, EMT, MYF, POC, RHV, and NEW do not appear as either an origin or a destination in the T-100 or 298C data

Source: Bureau of Transportation Statistics, Office of Airline Information

Form 41 Traffic (2002 T100 Data and 2001 298 C Data) Data, Washington, DC September 2003