

SUPPORTING BACKCOUNTRY AIRSTRIPS AND
RECREATIONAL AVIATION

SEPTEMBER 14, 2010.—Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed

Mr. OBERSTAR, from the Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H. Res. 1473]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, to whom was referred the resolution (H. Res. 1473) supporting backcountry airstrips and recreational aviation, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with an amendment and recommend that the resolution be agreed to.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas recreational aviation represents a significant portion of the Nation's aviation activity;

Whereas recreational aviators utilize backcountry airstrips as access points for a variety of activities;

Whereas backcountry airstrips provide multiple benefits to the general public, including search and rescue, fire management, research, disaster relief, and wildlife management benefits;

Whereas recreational aviation helps State economies by providing efficient access to recreational activities for visitors;

Whereas backcountry airstrips serve as emergency landing sites for aircraft in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather; and

Whereas backcountry airstrips provide for dispersed recreational activity and act as internal trailheads within backcountry areas: Now, therefore, be it

PURPOSE OF THE LEGISLATION

H. Res. 1473, as amended, recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on the nation's public lands and commends aviators and the various organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

In general, a backcountry airstrip is an unattended landing area in a location that provides access to remote, undeveloped rural areas by aircraft, usually airplanes.

Backcountry airstrips allow enhanced access for a variety of recreational activities, emergency services, firefighting, and land management activities, and they provide a means of access to remote areas for physically disadvantaged individuals who might not otherwise be able to get to remote locations for leisure. These airstrips also serve as efficient access points for tourists, who in turn contribute to local economies and small businesses. More importantly, in the event of mechanical problems or inclement weather, they serve as emergency landing sites for aircraft when larger airports are out of reach.

Many backcountry airstrips are privately owned. However, several state aviation offices own and operate backcountry airstrips, and many airstrips are owned by public agencies involved in land management, such as the U.S. Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and the Bureau of Reclamation.

SUMMARY OF THE LEGISLATION

H. Res. 1473, as amended, recognizes the value of recreational aviation and backcountry airstrips located on the nation's public lands and commends aviators and the various organizations that maintain these airstrips for public use.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY AND COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

On June 24, 2010, Representative Denny Rehberg introduced H. Res. 1473, supporting backcountry airstrips and recreational aviation. This resolution has not been introduced in a previous Congress.

On July 29, 2010, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session to consider H. Res. 1473. The Committee adopted an amendment to the bill by voice vote with a quorum present. The Committee ordered the bill, as amended, reported favorably to the House by a voice vote with a quorum present.

RECORD VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires each committee report to include the total number of votes cast for and against on each record vote on a motion to report and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, and the names of those members voting for and against. There were no recorded votes taken in connection with consideration of H. Res. 1473 or ordering the resolution reported. A motion to order H. Res. 1473, as amended, reported favorably to the House was agreed to by voice vote with a quorum present.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee's oversight findings and recommendations are reflected in this report.

COST OF LEGISLATION

With respect to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H. Res. 1473, as amended, is a resolution of the House of Representatives, and therefore does not have the force of law. As such, there is no cost associated with this resolution for fiscal year 2010, or any fiscal year thereafter.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XIII

1. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no comparison of the total estimated funding level for the relevant programs to the appropriate levels under current law is required.

2. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no statement of general performance goals and objectives for any measure that authorizes funding is required.

3. With respect to the requirement of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee advises that the resolution contains no measure that authorizes funding, so no cost estimate nor comparison for any measure that authorizes funding is required.

COMPLIANCE WITH HOUSE RULE XXI

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee is required to include a list of congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits, as defined in clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives. H. Res. 1473, as amended, does not contain any earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits under clause 9(e), 9(f), or 9(g) of rule XXI.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

With respect to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, H. Res. 1473, as amended, is a resolution of the House of Representatives, and therefore does not have the force of law. As such, clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII does not apply.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

H. Res. 1473, as amended, contains no Federal mandates.

PREEMPTION CLARIFICATION

Section 423 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 requires the report of any Committee on a bill or joint resolution to include a statement on the extent to which the bill or joint resolution is intended to preempt state, local, or tribal law. The Committee states that H. Res. 1473, as amended, does not preempt any state, local, or tribal law.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act are created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the resolution does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act (P.L. 104-1).

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

H. Res. 1473, as amended, makes no changes in existing law.

