

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2001

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

As you convene conference negotiations with the Senate on airline security legislation, we are writing to respectfully request your support for language addressing cockpit smoke.

In our efforts to enhance security at our airports, and on our airplanes, we must not overlook the danger of dense smoke in the cockpit. A terrorist can generate copious amounts of smoke with ease, and the ingredients are readily available and undetectable.

A recent issue of Air Safety Week reported that at least three tragic plane crashes were caused by terrorists using smoke to blind the pilots. Current procedures are woefully inadequate to ensure pilot vision when dense smoke is released in the cockpit. We must take this opportunity to eliminate this potential danger.

We urge the conferees to include in Section 106, "Enhanced Security Measures," the following language:

"Ensure that flight deck crew shall have the means and procedures to displace smoke in order to maintain visibility of vital instruments, checklists, approach plates, and projected flight paths in the presence of dense, continuous smoke in the cockpit."

Thank you for considering our request, and if you need any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Jack Quinn
Member of Congress

Sincerely,



Stephen Horn
Member of Congress