



July 9, 2007

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), I write to urge you to co-sign the letter being circulated by Rep. Bruce Braley (D-IA) to update and strengthen Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards for Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF).

As you know, TTD represents thousands of aviation workers, including the first responders at our nation's airports represented by the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). These workers and the traveling public rely on a safe air transportation system. Updating and improving current fire safety standards are essential to maintaining the world's safest aviation system, especially as increased air travel pushes our system to capacity. And with increased terror threats, airports and first responders must be prepared.

The current FAA standards relating to fire fighter response times, staffing, and mission are out of date and in need of improvement. Under the current standards far too many airports are left unprepared to respond in a timely and effective manner to fire emergencies. The tragic crash in Lexington, Kentucky last year is an example where updated standards may have saved lives. The NTSB has indicated that impact forces and post-crash fire destroyed the Comair airplane and killed 49 of the 50 people on board. It is possible that quicker response time and sufficient fire rescue personnel could have saved more lives in that accident. As the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007 (H.R. 2881) moves to the House floor we hope you will join your colleagues in urging that updated fire fighting standards be incorporated into H.R. 2881.

For these reasons, we ask you to add your name to the Braley letter (see attached). The deadline for signing on is **noon Friday, July 13th**. Please contact Mike Goodman in Rep. Braley's office at 202/225-2911 to sign-on. If you have any questions, please contact TTD Legislative Director Elizabeth Baker at 202/262-9262.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Edward Wytkind", is written over a horizontal line.

Edward Wytkind
President

Attachment

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

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Edward Wytkind, President • Michael A. Ingrao, Secretary-Treasurer

July XX, 2007

The Honorable Jerry F. Costello
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Costello,

Thank you for your commitment during the Transportation & Infrastructure Full Committee Mark-Up on June 28, 2007 to work with us on the issue of updating and strengthening Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) standards for Airport Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF).

As you know, current FAA standards relating to fire fighter response times, staffing, and mission are out of date, and could be significantly improved upon. As such, current standards leave far too many airports unprepared to respond in a timely and effective manner to fire emergencies. We feel that updating and improving current fire safety standards is essential to maintaining the world's safest aviation system, especially as we work to increase the capacity of the system.

We respectfully request language included in the Manager's Amendment to the *FAA Reauthorization Act of 2007* that would update ARFF standards. We feel that it is possible to modernize ARFF standards in a way that improves staffing levels and response times, but does not cause an undue burden on the nation's airports, particularly small airports.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Bruce Braley

cc: Chairman James L. Oberstar
Ranking Member John Mica
Ranking Member Tom Petri