



## Coalition for an Airline Passengers' Bill of Rights

The Honorable James L. Oberstar Chairman Transportation & Infrastructure Committee United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515	The Honorable John Mica Ranking Member Transportation & Infrastructure Committee United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515
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April 11, 2009

Dear Chairman Oberstar, Ranking Member Mica:

Wireless communication products are tools that are part of our everyday lives. Given the increased difficulties we face in getting to our destinations these days Americans are spending more and more time at airports and on board commercial aircraft. For this reason, we believe it is essential that the federal government perform a full inquiry before deciding whether to ban the use of wireless communications on commercial flights.

Inflight communication systems are currently deploying across Europe, Asia and the Middle East, and the real world experiences generated from this new service should be taken into account. The air carriers overseas who now provide these services have also developed policies and procedures to ensure appropriate phone etiquette. The implementation of these policies, and their effectiveness, should also be taken into account before a final decision is made.

Whether it is contacting a relative to inform them you are going to be two hours late while circling above a major airport, closing an important deal or learning about the results of a medical test, there are a host of important reasons why inflight communications could be very beneficial to passengers. We are grateful for the work Mr. DeFazio and others have done to improve the treatment of passengers by airlines. However, before Congress moves to ban inflight communications we respectfully request that they direct the National Academy of Science to conduct a study on any potential social issues that may result.

We also request that the study solicit feedback and input from all stakeholders including airline professionals, passengers and passenger rights groups & the telecommunications industry. We believe that too much is at stake to impose a federal ban without the benefit of a full review of all data, information and expert analysis available.

Sincerely,

Executive Director  
FlyersRights.org