

US-CITIZENS AVIATION WATCH ASSOCIATION

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ACTION ALERT on S. 633

Sign-on to oppose a bill that would mandate airport expansion and take away any alternatives to increasing transportation capacity such as high-speed rail. Have your members or constituents contact their Senators!

S. 633 (“The Aviation Delay Prevention Act”) has been passed by the Commerce Committee to the full Senate. This is a dangerous, corporate welfare bill for the air transportation industry because of the following reasons, among others:

- This bill would eviscerate the National Environmental Policy Act for the air transport industry by re-writing NEPA’s alternatives analysis for airport expansion projects into one that only protects “interstate commerce” and requires non-interference with the air transport status-quo (excludes other alternatives such as high speed rail for many reasons, and protects the air transport industry);
- mandates airport expansion (at least at the largest airports) by withdrawing funding as a punishment for not expanding (except for safety, environmental and security projects);
- requires no determination of how much congestion is caused by over-scheduling, as the initial bill did;
- mandates airport expansion as the solution to congestion and delays, wrongly assuming that expansion is the answer to delays, as it is widely known that the airlines’ over-scheduling is a main cause of delays;
- shortcuts any remaining process for evaluating the environmentally-harmful effects of airport expansion;
- allows the air transport industry to have closed-door meetings with the Federal Aviation Administrator regarding anti-trust matters;
- misleads busy legislators by referencing a section titled “Air Quality Standards Report,” which in reality is a previously-mandated study of passenger cabin air instead of the much needed objective study of public health problems caused by airport poisoning; and
- this bill, written prior to the horrific tragedies of September 11, 2001, does nothing to address the lax airport security which resulted in those many, needless deaths, and would only exacerbate dangerous security lapses by mandating massive, uncontrolled numbers of additional flights at many U.S. airports.

Please strongly oppose this Senate bill now: (S. 633 - the “Aviation Delay Prevention Act”) by signing the attached letter and sending your reply back to us by September 28, and by contacting your elected officials.

I/we strongly oppose S. 633:

- Name: _____
- State or organization: _____
- Address: _____
- Phone, fax, email: _____

Please send your response to one of these:

- P.O. Box 1702, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-1702
- Fax: (847) 506-0202
- Email: info@us-caw.org

The full language of the current “staff working draft” of S. 633 can be found at: <http://www.us-caw.org>