



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

20 April 2007

David Heysfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

The Honorable James Oberstar, Chairman
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2165 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Jerry Costello, Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
Transportation & Infrastructure Committee
2251 Rayburn House Office Building

Gentlemen,

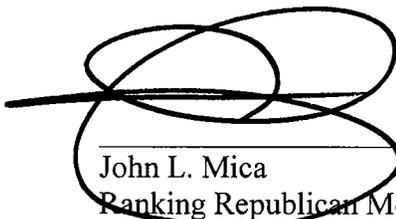
H.R. 1125, the "Freedom to Fly Act of 2007", was introduced in the House with the bipartisan support of 11 original co-sponsors. This bill would expedite the Federal Aviation Administration's rule change and allow pilots to fly up to age 65 provided a co-pilot under the age of 60 was in the cockpit as well. We urge you to move this bill in Committee as quickly as possible.

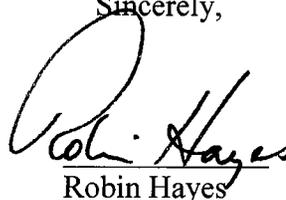
The bill currently has broad bipartisan support with 12 Democratic cosponsors and 27 Republican cosponsors. H.R. 1125 also enjoys robust subcommittee support as well as broad industry endorsement from a multitude of pilot associations including the Southwest Airline Pilots Association and Airline Pilots Against Age Discrimination pilot members from USAirways, JetBlue, United, American, Delta, Northwest, Continental, FedEx, UPS, and Lynden Air Cargo.

Furthermore, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) support modifying the pilot retirement age. In fact, the new ICAO age standard went into effect in November, 2006, whereby foreign pilots, up to the age of 65, may now fly into U.S. airspace, provided the co-pilot is under age 60.

This is a change long-coming and Congress needs to lead the way. We urge you again to please bring this bill before the Committee and favorably report it to the House.

Sincerely,


John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member


Robin Hayes


Thomas Petri
Ranking Republican Member
Subcommittee on Aviation