

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Music has a great impact on our country, both culturally and economically. Our states are home to not only some of the world's greatest musicians, but also to some of the world's greatest music venues – attracting millions of people to performances every year. But, with damaged instruments – or without instruments at all – those performances cannot happen and those venues fall silent, as musicians are left without the tools of their trade.

Countless stories have emerged over the years of musicians whose guitars, lutes, flutes and other musical instruments have been damaged because of a patchwork series of airline policies that put these fragile and valuable instruments in danger. Musicians arrive to their destinations only to learn their instruments were lost or find their instruments damaged, with little if any time to replace them before a scheduled performance. This puts livelihoods at risk.

To help keep this from happening, Congress included a provision in the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act (P.L. 112-95) that required the FAA to promulgate rules permitting airline passengers to stow their instruments on board in closets or overhead compartments, or if necessary, purchase an extra seat to store their instrument. As we approach the statutory deadline for that rule, we are disappointed to learn the process has not yet even begun.

We understand the budgetary pinch that many agencies have found themselves in, but the relatively modest cost of promulgating this rule should not have hindered its completion. We urge you to ensure this rulemaking is a priority as you are finalizing your funding decisions for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senate

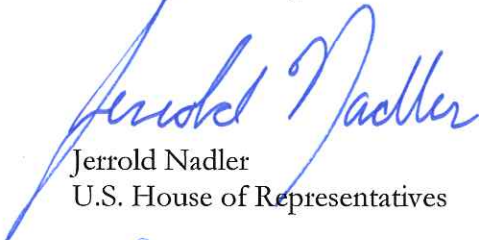
Jim Cooper
U.S. House of Representatives



Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives



Howard Coble
U.S. House of Representatives



Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives



Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives



Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives



Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives



Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives



Lee Terry
U.S. House of Representatives



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives



Blake Farenthold
U.S. House of Representatives



Tony Cardenas
U.S. House of Representatives



Collin Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives



Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives



Alcee Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives




Jim Moran
U.S. House of Representatives

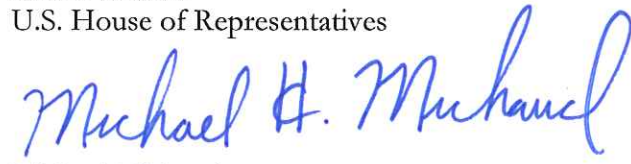



Donna M. Christensen
U.S. House of Representatives

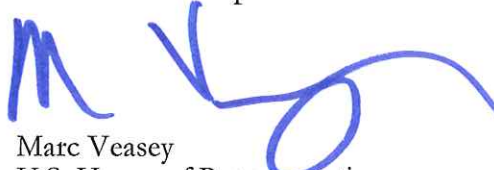

Wm. Lacy Clay
U.S. House of Representatives



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U.S. House of Representatives



Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives


Michael H. Michaud
U.S. House of Representatives


Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives


Marc Veasey
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Yvette Clarke
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Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives


Madeleine Z. Bordallo
U.S. House of Representatives


Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives


Adam Schiff
U.S. House of Representatives

cc: The Honorable Michael P. Huerta, FAA Administrator

Signatories on Congressional letter to FAA

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