

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 9, 2011

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, the Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-221 Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeb Hensarling
Co-Chair
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
129 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray
Co-Chair
Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction
173 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner, Senator Reid, Rep. Hensarling, and Senator Murray:

We are writing to express our strong opposition to increasing the passenger security fee. Imposing an increase in the fee is tantamount to increasing a tax. It would have a destructive impact on the aviation industry and fails to achieve our shared goals of increased security while improving the economy and creating jobs. In fact, a recent economic study indicates that the Administration's proposal to increase this tax could destroy at least 75,900 aviation and aviation related jobs.

A security tax increase would hit every traveler in the country, but would not guarantee that the Transportation Security Administration would become more efficient. It would also impact the airline industry at a time when it is struggling to keep up with high fuel prices. Airlines have already cut service and streamlined operations in response to the negative effects of the recession. Increasing this fee now would only further exacerbate an already weak travel and tourism industry – an industry that is vital to creating jobs and economic recovery.

Airline passengers already pay more than their fair share of federal taxes and fees. Federal taxes and fees constitute over 20 percent of the cost of a typical domestic round trip ticket. Airlines and their passengers pay \$3.5 billion annually to the Department of Homeland Security in the form of fees. Now is not the time to saddle air travelers with additional security fees.

Again, increasing the security tax would be detrimental to our efforts to spur economic growth and would negatively impact aviation and the travel and tourism industry. We should reject it.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers (AL)
Member of Congress

Gene Green (TX)
Member of Congress

Berd J. Fiddle
Hart Johnson

Don Tunnell

Zia Jason

Bill Hiraga

Steve Sattolo II

Tom Graves

Bill

James M. Payne

~~Bill~~

Lou Baretta

Steve Custer

Shelley Bentley

Kyle Hutz

John Long
Eric Wain

Mazie K. Hirose

Russ Holt

John

Ken Muelit

Lynn Jenkins

Rene Munn

Steve

Jan Penh

Ant Scott

John

John

Jim Halberg