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Week in Review

Thanks to everyone who set up calls or visits with their representatives and senators. We accomplished quite a bit, learned a lot and educated a lot of people both in Congress and at the DOT. Some of the highlights from the last two weeks include:

- We arranged a media event with Senator Lautenberg (D-NJ) where we congratulated him on getting language into the Senate version of the FAA reauthorization bill that increases funding for the DOT aviation consumer department to enable the DOT to investigate more consumer complaints. Similarly, we met with Congressman Mike Thompson (D-CA) to congratulate him on his Airline Passenger Bill of Rights legislation (H.R. 1303). These events are expected to air on CBS and NPR sometime in August.
- We met with Aviation Subcommittee chairman Jerry Costello's senior staff to discuss the Coalition's proposed changes to pending legislation. Except for deplanement language (to be discussed later), our changes were well received. We also met with Transportation Committee chairman Jim Oberstar's chief of staff. Same result - a mixed bag.
- Finally, in two separate meetings, we met with high level officials from the Department of Transportation. Essentially, the department said that unless Congress writes specific legislation with either minimum deplanement standards, or the Congress mandates that airlines create and publish enforceable deplanement standards, the department cannot make a rule with minimum deplanement standards.

Deplanement "Strand-in" for Unconvinced Members of Congress

With your help, we've accomplished quite a lot. We have language for meeting the essential needs of passengers during long tarmac delays. We've forced the DOT to start keeping accurate statistics for long tarmac delays. And we have support for disclosure of flight performance information when you buy a ticket. However, we don't have definitive deplanement language. We realize that without deplanement our cause has not succeeded in getting to the core of the problem. We will keep fighting for you!

But we're not giving up! Sometime in mid-September, most likely the week of September 10th, we're holding a "Strand-in" on the mall in front of the U.S. Capitol. Coalition volunteers, students, and invited members of Congress will fill a mock airplane complete with all the sounds and smells people endure while stranded in an airplane for hours on end. Unlike the real airlines, we will let people use restrooms!

It will be a major media event, so we need as many coalition members as possible to fill those camera lenses. Please let us know how many of you can attend.

Bumped? Weigh in with the DOT

The Department of Transportation (DOT) is considering an increase in the mandatory compensation requirement for overbooked air travelers, and you're invited to comment. This is a rare chance to weigh in on an important issue—don't waste it.

<http://www.smartertravel.com/travel-advice/weigh-in-on-the-dot-new-bumping-rules.html?id=2402095>

For particulars, log onto the DOT docket website, scroll down to the "OST" entries, and load Docket OST-2001-9325. You can submit your comments online or by mail to Docket Management System, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Ave SE, Room W12-140, Washington, D.C. 20590.

Please Visit Flyersrights - Do You Know a Business to Sponsor Us?

In order to raise additional funding, we're going to start using Google advertising on our website soon. Although we've been "surviving" so far on our good members donations, we must now figure out how to fund the "Strand In" and forward our cause to get the deplanement language in the bill. We may only have one short term shot at this... So please visit our advertisers often. Visits = income.

And if anyone knows of specific businesses that would be interested in advertising or sponsoring us, please let us know. We could also use some HTML help in getting the advertising set up.

Contact Congress or Give Up Your Right to Deplane

Please keep calling, e-mailing and faxing your letters to your senators and representatives. You can locate your representative at <http://www.visi.com/juan/congress/>. If you've called them before, call them again. The phone and fax campaign has been very effective in getting us noticed, but it is very important that they keep hearing about the absence of deplanement language.

If you don't contact Congress now, you aren't going to be able to complain when a stranding happens to you (again). Here's a suggestion for what to say or write; "I understand that the current Senate and House FAA Reauthorization bills still do not contain language to permit passengers to deplane an aircraft after extended tarmac delays. I am asking that [your Congressperson or Senator] support legislation that will require airlines to let people off of an airplane after a delay of no more than two or three hours." Fill in your own opinion of the number of hours.

Donations

We need more funds to run radio ads in key districts. Even ten dollars from each member would make a huge difference. To those of you who have donated, thank you! Please visit our website and donate if you can <http://www.flyersrights.com/4.html>. Credit cards and Paypal accepted. Send checks directly to:

CAPBOR
C/O Kate Hanni
159 Silverado Springs Drive
Napa, CA 94558

FYI, no one gets paid from these donations. All monetary contributions pay for our bulk email service, website, advertising and other necessary expenses. Coalition volunteers use their own money for travel, hotels and meals, and these expenses are not tax deductible.

New Articles

Must see this article about our valiant spokesperson - Kate Hanni.

ONE WOMAN'S FLIGHT OR FIGHT RESPONSE

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2007/07/31/BUIFR9TN22.DTL&hw=kate+hanni&sn=001&sc=1000>

Atlanta airport to use buses to reduce delays
<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/20077135/>

Subscriber Information

You are receiving this email because you signed the petition at <http://www.petitiononline.com/airline/petition.html>.

If you have trouble unsubscribing to these emails or changing your email address, please

email mark@flyersrights.com. If you're a Hotmail or MSN user, please just unsubscribe or contact Mark. Be careful with that Unsafe button. That causes us a lot of extra work.

Best Regards,

The Coalition for an Airline Passengers Bill of Rights

Kate Hanni

Spokeswoman

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<http://Strandedpassengers.blogspot.com>