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Passenger Rights under Siege in NY

The Air Transport Association of America (ATA), on behalf of the major U.S. commercial airlines, recently filed suit against the State of New York to strike down a recent law that would provide airline passengers in NY airports with food, water and working restrooms during tarmac delays of over three hours. Only an industry with a virtual monopoly can afford to continuously alienate their customers as effectively as the airlines.

A hearing is scheduled in Albany, NY on December 18th in the District Court for the Northern District of the State of New York (445 Broadway, Room 424). Kate and other coalition members will be there for the hearing and a joint press conference with NY State Assemblyman Michael Gianaris (Queens) who sponsored the original bill. **We need as many members as possible to show up at the courthouse in Albany on Tuesday morning.**

Although we aren't a party to the suit, our lawyers are filing an amicus brief on behalf of the Coalition. We need as many of you as possible to fill out the following affidavit form with your tarmac nightmare experience, have it notarized and fax by Monday:

<http://www.flyersrights.com/affidavit.doc>

Fax to: (240) 391-1923

Coalition Anniversary - Austin

As you all know, our Coalition was formed after our founder, Kate Hanni, and several hundred other airline passengers (many of you) were held on the tarmac at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport for several hours on December 29, 2006.

Since then, Kate has testified three times before Congressional subcommittees, and as a direct result of the efforts of our coalition, passenger rights legislation is now pending in Congress and the U.S. Department of Transportation is engaged in similar rulemaking activities. When these measures are passed, they will be the first air passenger rights memorialized into law in the history of this country. We've come a long way, baby!

December 29, 2007 will mark the one year anniversary of that stranding in Austin. On December 28th Kate and other coalition members will be in Austin to commemorate this historic event with a press conference and other activities. We know this is a busy holiday season and family comes first, but we'd like to see as many members as possible attend – especially local Austin members. Please let us know if you can make it.

The main challenges we face for this event are;

- Shipping the Strand-In tent to Austin from Pennsylvania and back. Commercial shipping costs are about \$500. We can't afford that. It's about a 24-hour drive each way. If anyone with a truck wants to volunteer we'll pay for the fuel.
- Even if we can get the tent shipped, where do we set it up near the airport? We need someone in Austin arrange for a great location.
- Frequent flyer miles to fly members to Austin
- Money!

If you can help, please contact Kate or Mark or donate through our web page.

Coalition Response from Last Week

Thanks so much from the great response we and the DOT received in regard to the DOT ANPRM. We won't know the overall results of that effort for a few months. Things in Washington take time. We can tell you that officials from the DOT check in with us every couple of days. It used to be that we couldn't get a secretary to talk to us.

Kate on 20/20 this Friday

Kate is scheduled to be on a segment of the ABC News program 20/20 on Friday night. The basic theme is travel myths. Check your local listings.

NY Times Reporter Wants Your Story!

Sarah Kershaw of The New York Times is working on a story about how travel hassles may be affecting and changing holiday plans. She wants to hear from any of you who are deciding not to travel over the holidays, or perhaps if you driving a shorter distance or postponing a reunion. Any and all tales are welcome. You can call or email her using the contact information below:

*Sarah Kershaw
The New York Times
kershaw@nytimes.com
212-556-1101 voice
206-992-6862 cell*

Donations

We have had so much generosity from many of our members, and yet due to the nature of upcoming events we need more folks to donate plane tickets/miles and money for hotel expenses and airfares.

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

Articles

Airlines hope to block flier Bill of Rights – USA Today

http://www.usatoday.com/money/industries/travel/2007-12-10-stranding-law_N.htm

Airlines Fight Against Passenger Bill Of Rights – CBS5 Bay Area – Kate Video

<http://cbs5.com/consumer/passenger.bill.rights.2.609072.html>

In the Crowded Sky, Change Is Approaching – NY Times

http://www.nytimes.com/2007/12/11/business/11road.html?_r=2&ref=business&oref=slogin&oref=slogin

Fliers pay for the FAA, but who's on their side? – Chicago Tribune

http://www.chicagotribune.com/travel/chi-page_3_storydec09,0,2419122.story?coll=chi_breaking_500

Group Wants Travelers To Blow Whistle When Airlines Mess Up

<http://www.thepittsburghchannel.com/news/14801602/detail.html>

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.

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Best Regards,

The Coalition for an Airline Passengers Bill of Rights

Kate Hanni
Spokeswoman

CAPBOR

(707) 337-0328

<http://www.flyersrights.com>

<http://Strandedpassengers.blogspot.com>