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U.S. Department of Transportation Got a Coalition Wake-Up Call

Wow! Thanks to all of you who contacted the DOT earlier this week. By Monday morning they obviously had had enough. On Monday afternoon, a senior DOT official called Kate to set up a meeting for October 29th. However, they also asked that we not bring all 21,000 coalition members with us! Apparently they don't have a conference room that large.

Anyway, we're asking them to brief us on a number of important issues:

- Status of airline passenger issues being considered by the DOT per recommendations of the Inspector General's report of September 25, 2007 (http://www.oig.dot.gov/StreamFile?file=/data/pdfdocs/WEB_FILE_FINAL_REPORT_On-Board_Delays_AV2007077.pdf).
- Items from the IG's report that the DOT may propose for adding to the FAA reauthorization bills (S. 1300 and H.R. 2881).
- Items currently in S. 1300/H.R. 2881 that the DOT will likely oppose.
- DOT/FAA process for determining which airline passenger consumer group(s) will be included on future advisory committees

We'll let you know next week how the meeting went. BTW, we need donations to cover travel costs for this trip – please donate at <http://www.flyersrights.com/4.html>.

Take Photos and Videos When on the Tarmac

Every day we get requests from media outlets for photos and videos of the conditions on airplanes during strandings and other airline related bad behavior. The media will even pay for photos or video if the content is dramatic enough. So if you are an eyewitness to stranding incidents on board aircraft, mishandled baggage, sleeping cots lined up in airports, or anything else that might be interesting to the cause, please take photos or videos and email them right away to mark@flyersrights.com. If the video files are too large to email, contact Mark at that address and we'll work out a way to get them.

Please don't break any laws in pursuit of these pictures, and always follow the directions of flight crews regarding the use of portable electronic devices.

We're Looking for a Radio Voice from the South

We will be running radio ads in the Mississippi delta region in the next couple of weeks. Senator Trent Lott, vice chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, appears to oppose Congressional airline passenger bill of rights legislation. His constituents must contact him to help him understand the importance of this legislation. We're looking for someone from the delta region

that has a good speaking voice to record a radio commercial for us. You will be anonymous. We just need to borrow your voice for about 30 seconds.

Google Ads Finally Up on Our Website

We've added Google advertisements to our website. We're working on making the ads more relevant ... we don't get to decide which ads appear. Anyway, it is a revenue generating source (i.e. every time someone clicks on one of our advertiser sites we make a few pennies.) WE CANNOT TELL YOU TO CLICK 1 MILLION TIMES...THAT'S AGAINST THE RULES ... but if you go there and like what you see...well...the rest is history.

Donations

We need funds for radio ads and also trips to Washington, DC. You are making the difference. Even ten dollars from each member would make a huge difference. To those 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.

Tell Us Your Story

If you have a stranding or other harrowing story to tell, send it to us and we'll print it here. Please keep them to 150 words or less. All submissions will be anonymous. We will only print your first name and state. Here's this week's entry;

Susan from PA

On October 9, 2007, I was on the tarmac in Philadelphia for 7.5 hours on a US Airways flight that was cancelled at 11:00 pm. The airlines only served us one warm glass of water and a small bag of cashews, and the flight attendant was very snippy. The cause of the delay was partially due to weather but also due to pilot error as he pulled away from the gate the first time without refueling even though he could see the delay. After being on the tarmac for over 2 hours the pilot announced that we were returning to the gate to get fuel, but that air traffic control assured him that he would save his place in line. Well it took two hours to get the paper work from the dispatcher, and of course then he lost his place in line. Then of course the crew timed out at 11:00 so the flight was cancelled. Our flight left the gate at 4:00pm, and we got off the plane at 11:20.

New Articles

Smoother rides start with Congress

<http://www.news-journalonline.com/NewsJournalOnline/Opinion/Editorials/opnOPN39102107.htm>

Airline Passenger Bill of Rights – Innovation Analysis Group

http://iagblog.podomatic.com/entry/2007-10-17T15_21_52-07_00

Self-correcting airlines simply a flight of fancy

http://www.palmbeachpost.com/opinion/content/opinion/epaper/2007/10/22/a8a_leadedit_airlines_1022.html

Fighting for flyers' rights -Bedford woman takes on airlines

<http://www.cabinet.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20071026/BEDFORD01/71026002/-1/bedford01>

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>