

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 13, 2018

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman, Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce,
Science, & Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Shuster
Chairman, Transportation & Infrastructure,
Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member, Transportation &
Infrastructure, Committee
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Thune and Shuster and Ranking Members Nelson and DeFazio,

We write to convey our strong support for Section 3129 of the Senate Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2018, which will afford airline passengers protections from unreasonable fees.

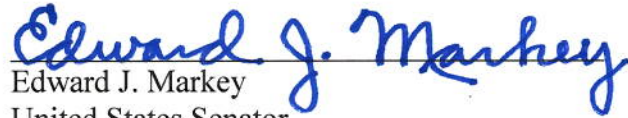
Today, airlines charge passengers fees for basic aviation services, such as changing or cancelling flight reservations and checking luggage. Many air carriers charge passengers change and cancellation fees up to \$200, even though the airline can still resell the vacated seat and the fee itself may be greater than the original air fare. Further, major U.S. air carriers now charge domestic air travelers baggage fees from \$30 for the first checked bag to \$150 for the third checked bag, yet there appears to be no appreciable cost increase for processing the additional bags. In fact, a 2017 report from the Government Accountability Office found that few airlines consider the costs of the services provided when setting the price of their ancillary fees.¹

Section 3129 would establish tailored, responsible protections from unreasonable airline fees. The provision directs the Department of Transportation (DOT) to assess whether change and cancellation, baggage, and other fees are reasonable and proportional to the costs of the services provided. In addition, the DOT is directed to ensure change and cancellation fees are not unreasonable or disproportionate to the costs borne by the airline when a flight reservation is modified or cancelled.

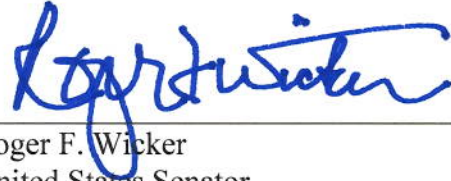
¹ Gerald L. Dillingham, Ph.D. et al., *Commercial Aviation Information on Airline Fees for Optional Services*, Washington D.C., Government Accountability Office, September 20, 2017.

We believe this provision both promotes a vibrant aviation sector and ensures passengers retain fundamental rights when they fly. We urge you to preserve this crucial provision in the final FAA Reauthorization bill, so we can provide passengers the much needed relief they deserve.

Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



Steve Cohen
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress