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JOHN M. CONLEY
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Administrative Assistant to the
International President

**TRANSPORT WORKERS
UNION OF AMERICA
AFL-CIO**

**International Headquarters
& Offices of the Railroad
Division & Transit Utility,
Universities and Service
Division**
501 3rd Street NW, 9th Floor
Washington, DC 20001
202.719.3900

**Regional Headquarters Air
Transport Division**
1791 Hurstview Dr.
Hurst, TX 76054
817.282.2544

www.TWU.org



February 2, 2012

Dear Senator,

I'm writing today to clearly state the Transport Workers Union's stance on the FAA Reauthorization bill. As I stated, "we can live with it." TWU has long maintained that labor provisions do not belong in this bill, be it the yes/no ballot or any other changes to the Railway Labor Act. Unfortunately, our friends in Congress did not get the message! We now find ourselves facing a so-called "compromise" that changes NMB election procedures, in exchange for passage of a multi-year authorization after 23 exhausting extensions and one very painful FAA shutdown.

We are extremely disappointed that this "compromise" was reached without the input of any of the organizations or workers who will be affected, TWU included. We have made this point abundantly clear to the individuals responsible for the decision as well. Ultimately, we can live with a higher showing of interest— though it is unclear how this, and the change to the run-off procedures, will pertain to merger proceedings. Additionally, we view the mandate for GAO to regularly review the NMB as just another instance of political micromanaging of a well-regarded agency. Congress would be better served by investigating the flagrant violations of labor law that employers make during organizing campaigns.

At the end of the day TWU supports long-term funding for the FAA and enacting numerous safety improvements— including, but not limited to an annual review of overseas repair stations, stronger drug and alcohol testing of foreign operatives, and a proactive approach to finally extending basic safety and health protections to flight attendants. We do urge, however, that you do all within your powers to send this bill back to the Conference Committee. Specifically, we seek clarification on the merger scenarios referenced above and codification of the yes/no ballot.

If you have further questions, please contact Portia White, Director of Legislative and Political Affairs, at pwhite@twu.org or (202) 719-3903.

Sincerely,

James C. Little
International President

JCL:kml
OPEIU-153