

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

JAMES P. HOFFA
General President

25 Louisiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001



C. THOMAS KEEGEL
General Secretary-Treasurer

202.624.6800
www.teamster.org

June 3, 2009

Rep. Bennie G. Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
Fax: (202) 226-4499

RE: H.R. 2200 Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act

Dear Chairman Thompson:

On behalf of 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (40,000 of whom are employed in the airline industry), I would like to extend strong support for the passage of H.R. 2200, which will improve security in surface air and maritime transportation. We are especially pleased to see the committee address the massive lapse of oversight with respect to aircraft maintenance performed overseas.

Teamster representatives have met with Members of the Committee and staff to move more comprehensive reforms that vastly improve and normalize safety standards at foreign repair stations and we thank you for the ability to weigh in. Your leadership is welcomed.

As you know, it is becoming all too common for U.S. aircraft to be maintained and overhauled in foreign countries that do not have to conform to the same security standards as U.S. domestic repair stations. This lapse in oversight has resulted in a

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loophole with potentially dire consequences for passengers and the aviation professionals that we represent.

Directing TSA to issue regulations on security standards for foreign repair stations that are comparable to the standards applied domestically is a sound, safe and fair measure. Section 206 requires that domestic *and* foreign repair stations be held to the security standards that govern air carriers and airports, regarding personnel background checks, access to aircraft, and facility perimeter security, to prevent terrorists from exploiting an opportunity to harm the U.S. or other countries.

Again, we thank you and your wise committee for working so hard to protect our transportation system and the security of our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Bourne", with a large, stylized flourish at the beginning.

Capt. David Bourne, Director
Teamsters Airline Division