

# INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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JAMES P. HOFFA  
General President

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KEN HALL  
General Secretary-Treasurer

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March 15, 2013

The Honorable John S. Pistole  
Assistant Secretary/Administrator  
Transportation Security Administration  
East Building  
601 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington, Virginia 20598

By Facsimile (571) 227-1398

Dear Administrator Pistole:

As a follow-up to your meeting with our Flight Attendant Coalition earlier this week, I want to reiterate my Union's strong opposition to the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) proposal to allow knives on passenger aircraft. In light of what led to the takeover of aircraft on 9/11, I cannot fathom the TSA's rationale for allowing knives on planes with blades longer than box cutters – which are still banned! This proposal is pure lunacy and flies in the face of common sense.

The TSA's ill-conceived idea of allowing knives on planes places both our members and the travelling public in greater danger. Not all flights have air marshals on board, nor are all pilots armed. While pilots now fly behind reinforced cockpit doors, flight attendants have little protection from knife wielding passengers wanting to do harm. Self-defense training for flight attendants is still voluntary, and some air carriers do not take the initiative to provide the training. This all adds up to a potential volatile situation in the airplane cabin.

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Most disturbing is the fact that not one union representing flight attendants was consulted or asked for input on this proposal. These are frontline workers that are being put in the most danger. In addition, increases in incidents involving angry or disorderly passengers could put a flight at risk. For the safety of the traveling public, our hard-working flight attendants, pilots and other airline employees, I implore you to rethink this change in security policy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Hoffa". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Hoffa  
General President

JPH/fm

cc: President Barack Obama  
Vice President Joe Biden  
Members of Congress