

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Music has a great impact on our country, both culturally and economically. Our states are home to not only some of the world's greatest musicians, but also to some of the world's greatest music venues – attracting millions of people to performances every year. But, with damaged instruments – or without instruments at all – those performances cannot happen and those venues fall silent, as musicians are left without the tools of their trade.

Countless stories have emerged over the years of musicians whose guitars, lutes, flutes and other musical instruments have been damaged because of a patchwork series of airline policies that put these fragile and valuable instruments in danger. Musicians arrive to their destinations only to learn their instruments were lost or find their instruments damaged, with little if any time to replace them before a scheduled performance. This puts livelihoods at risk.

To help keep this from happening, Congress included a provision in the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act (P.L. 112-95) that required the FAA to promulgate rules permitting airline passengers to stow their instruments on board in closets or overhead compartments, or if necessary, purchase an extra seat to store their instrument. As we approach the statutory deadline for that rule, we are disappointed to learn the process has not yet even begun.

We understand the budgetary pinch that many agencies have found themselves in, but the relatively modest cost of promulgating this rule should not have hindered its completion. We urge you to ensure this rulemaking is a priority as you are finalizing your funding decisions for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

Sincerely,



Lamar Alexander  
U.S. Senate

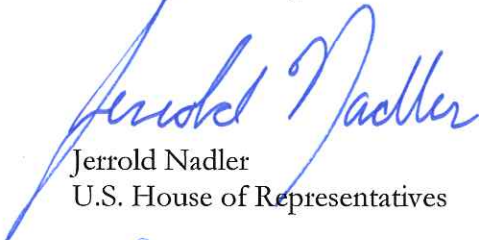
Jim Cooper  
U.S. House of Representatives



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Howard Coble  
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Jerrold Nadler  
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Lucille Roybal-Allard  
U.S. House of Representatives



Alcee Hastings  
U.S. House of Representatives




Jim Moran  
U.S. House of Representatives

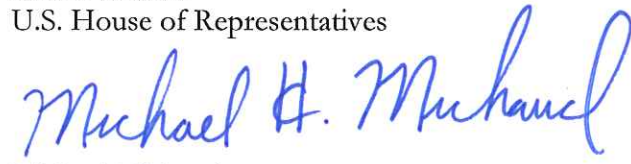



Donna M. Christensen  
U.S. House of Representatives

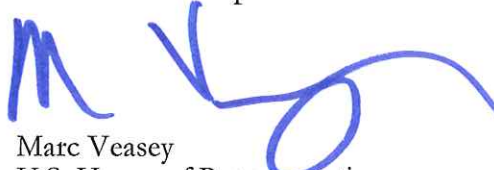
  
Wm. Lacy Clay  
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Madeleine Z. Bordallo  
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Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives

  
Adam Schiff  
U.S. House of Representatives

cc: The Honorable Michael P. Huerta, FAA Administrator