

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP



SENATOR
CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
8TH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS
CODES
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& SMALL BUSINESS
CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FINANCE
HEALTH
JUDICIARY

October 20, 2011

Dear Members of the New York Congressional Delegation:

We are writing to oppose a proposal currently being considered by Congress to create a new departure tax for commercial aviation and to raise the aviation security fee.

Air travel has become increasingly more expensive for consumers, in large part to the 17 different federal taxes and fees which passengers and airlines are forced to pay. Consumers purchasing a typical domestic roundtrip ticket, which costs approximately \$300, can expect to pay \$61 dollars in federal taxes and fees. That means over twenty percent of their ticket cost goes directly to taxes and fees. Adding billions of dollars in new taxes would drive ticket prices even higher, forcing already overburdened consumers to pay more yet again.

Just as troubling is that passengers have experienced service cuts even while paying significantly more in fares. Smaller and medium sized airports in New York State have already seen significant service reductions over the last four years. Between the fourth quarter of 2007 and the fourth quarter of 2011, service dropped 14 percent at Albany Airport and Greater Rochester Airport, 21 percent at Syracuse-Hancock Airport, and an unbelievable 37 percent at Long Island's Macarthur Airport. Adding new taxes and fees will force airlines, which lost \$55 billion over the last decade, to either raise their prices or further reduce service, forcing passengers to pay more to get less.

Additionally, this proposal would do nothing to help our economy grow or create jobs. Nearly 11 million American jobs are tied to the commercial aviation industry, which generates more than \$1.2 trillion in economic activity. Further increasing costs on this industry could lead to hundreds of thousands of layoffs, a devastating prospect at a time when over 25 million Americans are already out of work.

Raising costs on businesses and consumers will not help get our economy back on track. Here in New York State, we worked together in a bi-partisan fashion to close a \$10 billion budget deficit without raising taxes and fees. We are hopeful that our leaders in Washington will take the same approach to addressing the nation's debt, rather than imposing new taxes and fees which will result in higher prices, larger costs, less service, and fewer jobs.

Sincerely,



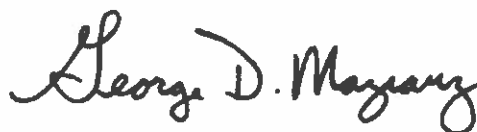
SENATOR CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.



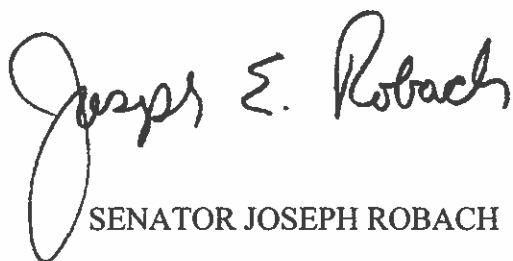
SENATOR OWEN H. JOHNSON



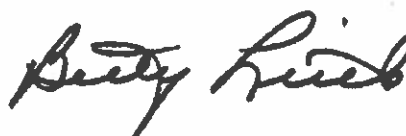
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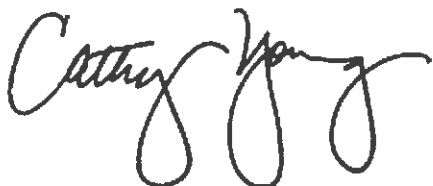
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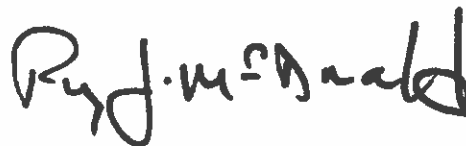
SENATOR JOSEPH ROBACH



SENATOR BETTY LITTLE



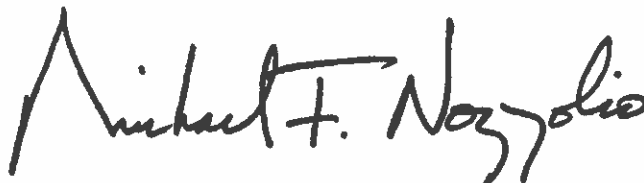
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