



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

*Proudly Representing the **Flight Attendants** of American Airlines*

Office of the President

October 14, 2011

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590-0001

RE: DOT-OST-2011-0044

Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the more than 17,000 members of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, I strongly urge you to amend 14 CFR part 252 to extend the ban on smoking on board aircraft to using electronic cigarettes. As you may be aware, our employer, American Airlines, has already taken a position on this issue by banning e-cigarettes on all of our flights. However, enforcement of this company policy falls strictly to the flight attendants which could prove to be problematic. Furthermore, the inconsistency across our industry is untenable and could lead to anger and confrontation from passengers.

We also stand by our fellow flight attendants whose employers have not yet taken a stand with regard to this issue. As the notice of proposed rulemaking states, the science behind the effects e-cigarettes may have on third parties is, at best, inconclusive. We must adamantly support a healthy environment for all flight attendants working flights in the United States.

We the cabin crew would also appreciate enacting this rule as a show of support. As you know, the aircraft cabin does not currently have any OSHA oversight. For the thousands of flight attendants who have been working in this environment for many years, we find this lapse in government regulation appalling. Countless on-the-job hazards exist in the cabin, not the least of which is poor air quality. We can all agree

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that any additional regulation that guarantees the health and safety of flight attendants is a step in the right direction.

My organization also supports extending the smoking ban, including the use of e-cigarettes, to charter flights. Although smoking is not necessarily a problem on American Airlines' numerous charters, this is another issue on consistency across our industry. Speaking as a veteran of my trade, I can attest to the terrible effects of smoking being permitted in the aircraft cabin. No flight attendant should be subjected to cigarette smoke on the airplane today, particularly given what we now know about second hand smoke. Indeed, every American deserves to work in an environment that is as safe and healthy as can reasonably be expected.

In conclusion, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants would like to thank you for your consideration and for bringing this issue to the public forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura R. Glading". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Laura Glading
President
Association of Professional Flight Attendants