



AIRCRAFT MECHANICS FRATERNAL ASSOCIATION

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Dear Member of Congress,

I am Steve MacFarlane, acting National Director of the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association (AMFA), and on behalf of the over 1,800 AMFA-represented mechanics at Southwest Airlines (SWA), I would like to take this opportunity to bring to your attention the debate surrounding the repealing of the Wright Amendment. A political favor in the first place, the Wright Amendment serves but one purpose: to restrict the free market from functioning in an industry that was de-regulated in 1978. Restricting long haul flights originating at Love Field to neighboring states, Wright stymies competition and hurts consumers nation-wide.

The product of failed litigation, including a snubbing by United States Supreme Court (434 US 832) (1977), American Airlines and its grand coalition turned to political leaders in order to quell competition in and around Dallas/Fort Worth. SWA, as an airline in its infancy, decided against setting up operations at DFW Airport for a litany of reasons, not the least of which was its egregious size. The SWA business plan, arguably the most successful business plan to date in the airline industry, depends upon smaller airports and their overall conveniences for its success. Thus, moving to DFW in 1974 was simply not the best business option; this remains true today.

This restriction impedes SWA's growth potential and puts an unnecessary burden on the pocketbooks of Americans wanting to fly to see family and friends across the United States. As employees of SWA, AMFA members want nothing more than for their employer to grow and prosper, especially if that means more work for us, more economic flights for the public, and a more sound domestic aviation policy.

Two bills, HR 2646 and S1424, aim to permanently eradicate the Wright Amendment, thus ending one of the last relics of regulation in our industry. I urge you to support these measures, and to contact AMFA's National Legislative Liaison, Zachary Peterson, with any questions or concerns you may have.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Steve MacFarlane, Acting National Director – Assistant National Director