



Leo W. Gerard  
International President

February 3, 2012

**VIA FAX**

U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

**Re: United Steelworkers urges opposition to “FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012”**

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the 1.2 million active and retired members of the United Steelworkers union (USW), I urge you to oppose the Reid/Boehner Railway Labor Act rewrite within the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

This unrelated, controversial labor provision does not belong in an infrastructure bill. As drafted, the “compromise” agreement in the conference report destroys 70 plus years of air and rail labor precedent without a single hearing or democratic debate.

The compromise omits codifying the democratic principle of “one person, one vote” in the legislation while raising the threshold to hold a vote for union representation. Additionally, the “compromise” fails to properly address the special circumstances of merged airlines and the ability to vote for union representation, further harming worker rights.

Changing the oversight of the National Mediation Board (NMB) significantly impedes the independent authority granted to the NMB and represents a major revision to air and rail labor law.

The United Steelworkers believes the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization should be about jobs not undermining workers' rights. We urge opposition to the bill as currently drafted and would support the legislation if the anti-worker NMB provisions were removed.

Sincerely,

Leo W. Gerard  
International President