



P R E S S R E L E A S E

SOUTHWEST AIRLINES PILOTS' ASSOCIATION

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SWAPA Applauds Chairman LoBiondo's Leadership on Flags of Convenience Amendment to H.R. 2997

(DALLAS) — The Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association (SWAPA) is grateful for Chairman Frank LoBiondo's unwavering commitment to the American worker and the enforcement of our Open Skies Agreements. During debate of the FAA bill, known as the 21st Century AIRR Act (H.R. 2997), SWAPA Government Affairs and our Southwest Airlines counterparts, as well as many other domestic carriers and aviation labor unions, joined forces to support an amendment offered by Chairman LoBiondo of the Aviation Subcommittee, to fix the Department of Transportation's process for consideration of Foreign Air Carrier Permits. The text of the amendment was identical to language in a bill (H.R. 2150, the Flags of Convenience Don't Fly Here Act) sponsored by Chairman LoBiondo. Going forward, the amendment requires permit applicants to pass a public interest test that will, among other things, require the applicant to be in full compliance with our Open Skies Agreements.

Chairman LoBiondo's leadership to ensure a level playing field for U.S. aviation workers is vital to the preservation of the U.S. aviation industry. Having witnessed the destruction of the U.S. maritime industry by Flags of Convenience schemes, Chairman LoBiondo understands the threat to U.S. aviation workers and aviation's \$1.6 trillion in total contributions to the U.S. economy.

Additionally, SWAPA acknowledges the bipartisan contributions of Ranking Member Peter DeFazio, Ranking Member Rick Larsen, and Representative Drew Ferguson on their contributions to H.R. 2150. Their support is greatly appreciated by the 8,500 pilots of SWAPA and we look forward to working with them and Chairman Bill Shuster as this important legislation moves through the legislative process.

Located in Dallas, Texas, the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association (SWAPA) is a non-profit employee organization representing the more than 8,500 pilots of Southwest Airlines. SWAPA works to provide a secure and rewarding career for Southwest pilots and their families through negotiating contracts, defending contractual rights, and actively promoting professionalism and safety. For more information on the Southwest Airlines Pilots' Association, visit www.swapa.org.

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