



October 6, 2004

Honorable John Mica
Chairman
Aviation Subcommittee
U.S. House of Representatives
2251 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Mica:

The 140 member companies of the Florida Aviation Trades Association (FATA) are concerned with a recent rule issued by the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) affecting flight training. FATA strives for a Florida aviation industry united and dedicated to serving aviation consumers, companies, and individuals who commit themselves to deliver uncompromising safety and unparalleled service to those who entrust all of us with the opportunity to provide their aviation services.

We understand that you will be meeting with Phil Boyer, President of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA), to discuss the TSA's recent Interim Final Rule on Flight Training for Aliens and other Designated Individuals. Our members share many of AOPA's concerns about this rule's adverse effect on companies and individuals who offer flight instruction in aircraft weighing 12,500 pounds or less. There are also troubling uncertainties about the TSA's intentions for U.S. citizens. In Florida alone, the rule stands to affect over 49,000 pilots, nearly 7,000 of whom are student pilots receiving flight instruction at approximately 181 flight schools.

It is important that TSA delay implementation of the Interim Final Rule as it pertains to aircraft weighing 12,500 pounds or less and seek the input of industry to produce a rule that is sound from a regulatory standpoint, meets congressional intent, and protects the rights of all pilots living in the United States.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

John Hunt
President
Florida Aviation Trades Association