



The Alliance of Residents Concerning O'Hare, Inc.

A Not-for-Profit Corporation

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"To achieve a balance between public health and the economy"

April 23, 2004

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
U. S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Marion Blakey
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Mineta and Administrator Blakey:

I am writing you in regards to letter sent to your offices dated February 25, 2004 from the six whistle blowers at United Airlines. The Department of Labor has apparently stayed all of the whistle blower cases against United. This has been done despite the fact United committed violation of Federal Aviation Regulations, FAR's, which have been verified by the FAA. We believe the stay imposed by the Department of Labor is in direct conflict with the intent of Congress when creating the Wendell Ford Whistle Blower Protection Act, AIR-21.

I am asking for you to support their position under Title 49 to provide a hearing into the matter of whistle blower protection and the manner in which these cases have been handled. If the ability for airline employee to report safety violations is removed under bankruptcy protection, the flying public and innocent citizens on the ground are put at risk. This has become more evident by the recent crash of American flight 587 in Queens. It's not just the flying public that suffers as a result of an aircraft accident. It's clear that the intent of Congress when passing AIR-21 was to eliminate this loophole and to insure no employee had to make a decision on whether to report safety violation or keep their job.

In conclusion, I hope that you will support their request for a hearing on these matters as soon as possible and eliminate any future situations like this from occurring again. It would also be good to see the FAA take more of a proactive role in defending whistle blowers in the future. I believe this would prevent the treatment that the six Whistle-Blowers at United have endured over the past four years. Safety really does start on the ground.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jack Saporito
Executive Director, ARECO
Acting Vice-president, The American Working Group for National Policy

Proud Recipient: 1995 Environmental Merit Award, Arlington Heights - 1996, '99 Illinois State Senate Recognition
Protecting the Health and Safety of Millions of O'Hare Affected Citizens