

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS

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March 20, 2014

The Honorable Bill Shuster, Chairman
House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Shuster:

On behalf of the 1.4 million members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, I am writing to state our support for H.R. 4156, the Transparent Airfares Act of 2014.

H.R. 4156 reverses the Department of Transportation's Full Fare Advertising Rule, which requires airlines to include taxes and fees in the price quotes they give to customers when they shop online for flights. This requirement negatively impacts consumers in two ways. First, it effectively shields consumers from knowing what portion of their ticket price is the base fare and which portion is imposed taxes, which makes it nearly impossible to compare base fares. Second, the consumer is misled into thinking that airline ticket prices are higher than they actually are. This has a chilling effect on the demand for air travel by making the advertised price of an airline ticket artificially higher.

Consumers have a right to see the full breakdown of their ticket price, especially when taxes and fees imposed on air travel are on the rise. While the Department of Transportation had good intentions, in practice this regulation has actually reduced transparency. H.R. 4156 is practical legislation that will bring air travel in line with virtually all other consumer products which are sold at base price, with taxes added on at the point of purchase.

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The International Brotherhood of Teamsters is pleased to offer our support for H.R. 4156. We thank you for taking the lead on this important issue and look forward to working with you to ensure the bill's swift enactment.

Sincerely,


James P. Hoffa
General President

JPH/fm

Cc: Honorable Frank LoBiondo, Chairman, House Aviation Subcommittee
Honorable Rick Larsen, Ranking Member
Honorable Peter DeFazio