

December 3, 2013

The Honorable Frank LoBiondo
Chairman, Aviation Subcommittee
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman LoBiondo:

On behalf of the National Business Aviation Association (NBAA) and our more than 10,000 member companies, I am writing to express our appreciation for your leadership in introducing H.R.3578 and to Ranking Member Larson and the other House co-sponsors for their support of this legislation.

Concerns about OSA are understandable, which is why today, untreated OSA is a disqualifying medical condition for flying. However, there is no definitive causal link between undiagnosed OSA and any impact on flight safety.

NBAA is concerned that the FAA has announced its intention to implement new procedures that will require pilots to bear the significant costs of getting tested for OSA (as much as \$5,000, according to some sources), and obtaining the requisite equipment to treat it, if necessary. The FAA has suggested that this policy would eventually apply to all pilots, regardless of the class of medical certificate or the operation in which the pilot flies.

There appears to be little or no data to suggest that mandating this additional screening requirement will improve aviation safety. Equally troubling, while there may have been dialogue between the FAA and the airline pilot community about this new policy, the vast majority of pilots have neither been provided an opportunity to learn about FAA's plans, nor been given a mechanism to provide feedback on the effect of this proposal.

Simply put, a proposal of this magnitude – which would have the effect of a rule or regulation with significant industry impact – should be subject to transparency, in part through commentary from affected parties, as well as analysis of its data-driven justification, costs, benefits and other important criteria.

H.R.3758 would ensure that these important considerations are made before the proposed OSA requirement is allowed to take effect. We thank you once again for introducing this important legislation, and we look forward to working with you and the Committee to ensure its prompt passage by the U.S. House of Representatives.

Sincerely,



Ed Bolen
President and CEO
National Business Aviation Association