



The Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations



November 13, 2001

Senator Olympia Snowe  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Snowe

I would like you to seriously consider including language in HR 3150 to ensure pilots can see the flight path and instrument panel during a smoke emergency. There is technology available which is relatively inexpensive and easy to install which can allow pilots to see the instrument panel and flight path in order to land the plane safely in the event of a continuous smoke emergency in the cockpit.

This type of device, called a cockpit smoke displacement system, can save lives. The tragedies of Swiss Air 111 and ValuJet may have not been fatal if the pilots had had the ability to see the cockpit when attempting to make emergency landings.

Cockpit smoke displacement systems serve a security as well as a safety function. In three documented events, terrorists used smoke devices to cause accidents on commercial airliners. Presently, there is no effective means to evacuate smoke from an aircraft cockpit during flight. The only means available to the pilot are to depressurize the plane and open the flight deck door. In these times of increased security, why would we want to give terrorists the opportunity to force the pilots to open the cockpit door by literally smoking them out of the cockpit?

I urge you to include the attached language in the aviation security bill. We should not leave any opportunity for terror in the skies again.

Sincerely,

Captain Bob Miller,  
Chairman, Coalition of Airline Pilots Associations

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