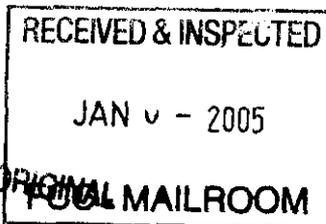


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December 20, 2004

04-435

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am a flight attendant with American Eagle Airlines based in Dallas/Ft Worth. It has recently come to my attention that the FCC and the FAA are currently considering lifting the ban on cell phone usage aboard commercial aircraft.

I have listened to the arguments both pro and con. Supporters believe that by not being able to use their cell phones they are losing productivity. Opponents say that an aircraft is the one remaining sanctuary where they can escape the increasing deluge of people screaming into their phones.

While both arguments may hold a certain amount of validity, neither addresses the concern I have as a safety professional.

Every time you board an airplane, you place your trust in the flight attendant(s) to ensure you arrive at your destination safe and sound. This, I assure you, is a responsibility we do not take lightly.

While statistics consistently prove that air is the safest way to travel, things can still go wrong. If something were to happen on my aircraft that requires an emergency landing and the possibility of an aircraft evacuation I have a checklist I am required to follow in order to prepare my passengers. This checklist contains many items and I may have a very limited amount of time. In such a situation taking the time to tell dozens of people to get off their phones because I need their attention is a luxury I will not have. It is absolutely imperative that I have their complete and undivided attention immediately.

Also, as a flight attendant on smaller regional aircraft, I must shoulder this responsibility alone as I am the only flight attendant on board.

For this reason, I strongly urge you to think long and hard about an issue that could deal a serious blow to the safety of air travel and join me in keeping our passengers safe in the skies.

I thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Jerry Jones

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