

I strongly, urgently request FAA not permit cell phone use on commercial flights.

I am a Critical Infrastructure Protection officer, and a frequent flyer. With that background, I send this plea to you as one who is intimately involved daily in homeland defense/security issues, and as one who may suffer the consequences of this ill-advised proposal.

There are a number of reasons this cell phone proposal should die, in addition to potential interference with aircraft communications and guidance systems:

1. There is no Aerial Etiquette. The FCC indicated that although it recognizes that some cell phone users may irritate fellow travelers, it is up to carriers and society to address this "etiquette" issue. Society doesn't do very well with etiquette these days. As a cell phone user on many travels, I've been amazed at the abuse of cell phone etiquette (an Air Transport Association representative labeled it a "nuisance factor") by others in airport terminals and while planes are taxiing. In consideration of fellow travelers and because of the close environment I never use my phone in a plane. There are, however, too many thoughtless people who don't think about others and shout into their phones. This is not what fellow travelers or I should have to endure when paying big dollars to fly.

2. Phone Rage Will Happen. Someone will become so infuriated by an inconsiderate cell phone user that physical violence will happen. It will happen. While people can avoid road rage by getting out of the way, airline passengers are hostage to their close environment. The impact of such a confrontation could be catastrophic.

3. There is an Alternative. If a call is so vitally important that it absolutely must be made in-flight (note, travelers seem to be surviving under the current restriction), then the person can use the carrier-provided phones. Yes it costs money, but if the call is that important then it should be worth the cost to the caller.

4. Terrorist Tool. Finally, and most important, cell phones could be a valuable "command and control" tool of terrorists during a flight, conceivably enabling execution of their mission. With the common new camera cell phones, terrorists have an expanded capability in their toolkit.

I respectfully request your response to my plea. Many lives and our national security are at stake.