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Portland, OR 97202
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FCC Mail Room

To the FCC:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed changes to cell phone usage restrictions on commercial airline flights.

First, I do understand that, if you change the rules, it will be up to the airlines to set policies. But since I don't entirely trust the airlines to set considerate policies, I am hoping you do not change the status quo regarding cell phone usage on commercial flights. In my view, there are good reasons to continue to require that all electronic devices stay in "airplane mode" (and therefore unable to talk or text) while in flight.

The problems with allowing people to talk on their phones during flights have been well-documented in the press. Suffice it to say that it would produce a cacophony! People speak loudly, most often, on their mobile phones, and they would be especially apt to do so when it is already noisy, as is the case on an airplane (due to the engines, etc.).

I also think that, once people are allowed to take their telephones off of "airplane mode," they will break any no-talking rule. I imagine people using the restrooms, for example, to "make just this one call" undetected. Imagine the wait for restrooms once they start getting used that way!

Further, even allowing texting and the receiving of texts would be a problem. Most people's telephones ring or make some other noise whenever a text or email message comes in. Multiplied by maybe 140 cell phone owners on a flight and by a couple of texts per person, this would, in my view, be quite annoying. And I think it'd be almost impossible to enforce a "vibrate" only or quiet policy for these various tones. Many people don't know how to turn off the various notification tones on their telephones!

Flying already can be a less-than-fully-civilized experience. I, and many other frequent flyers with whom I am friends, would definitely fly less frequently (and thereby provide less stimulus to the economy) if people are allowed to take their devices off of "airplane mode" while in flight.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Sincerely,



Nancy Greiff