13-301

[redacted]

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Feb 26, 2014

KENNETH M MCKINNIS
72 NORMAS WAY
MC HENRY, MD 21541

To: Mr. Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Comm
Wash. D. C.

[redacted]

Received & Inspected
MAR - / 2014
FCC Mail Room

Dear Mr. Wheeler

According to the attached article you are in favor of voice usage of cellphones on commercial flights. Why? There is already enough tension without adding more. Maybe if you flew from Dulles to San Jose in the middle seat between a couple of old men (mostly deaf - like myself) screaming Huh! What'd say - You might change your mind.

Sincerely
Ken McKinnis

Conflict arises over cellphones on planes

JOAN LOWY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON — It looks like the government is more conflicted about cellphones on planes than most travelers. Even as one federal agency considers allowing the calls, another now wants to make sure that doesn't happen.

Passengers — particularly those who fly often — oppose allowing calls in flight, polls show. In line with that sentiment, the Department of Transportation signaled in a 22-page notice posted online Friday that it wants to retain a ban on the calls. But the notice comes just two months after the Federal Communications Commission voted to pursue lifting the ban.

Transportation regulates aviation consumer issues. The FCC has responsibility over whether the use of cellphones in flight would interfere with cellular networks on the ground.

FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler has said he wants to repeal the current ban, calling it restrictive and outdated. He also wants the airlines, not the government, to have final say on in-flight calling. He declined to comment Friday on the Transportation Department's notice.

Echoing some travelers' concerns, Transportation said it believes allowing passengers to make cellphone calls "may be annoying or injurious" to other passengers.

This is because "people tend to talk louder on cellphones than when they're having face-to-face conversations," the department said. "They are also likely to talk more and further increase the noise on a flight, as passengers would not be simply talking to the persons sitting next to them, but can call whomever they like."