

May 23, 2014

VIA ECFS

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Office of the Secretary, Room TW B204
Washington DC 20554

Alan G. Fishel

Partner
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Re: WT Docket No. 13-301

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On May 21, 2014, representatives of the Safety and Security in the Air Coalition (“SSAC”) and Andrea Wohleber from the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO, met with John Leibovitz, Roger Noel, Brian Regan, Amanda Huetinck and Linda Chang from the WTB and Julius Knapp, Chief Engineer for OET. The SSAC representatives who attended the meeting were Chris Witkowski and Dinkar Mokadam from the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA, Thom McDaniel and Michael Massoni from the Transport Workers Union of America, Denny Dillard from the Dillard Group International, and Stephanie Starks from the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers. The undersigned, who is counsel for members of the SSAC, also attended the meeting.

At the meeting, SSAC representatives stated that they strongly believe the Commission should terminate this proceeding because lifting the long-standing ban on using cell phones for voice and data on flights would greatly exacerbate the risk of successful terrorist attacks. The SSAC representatives discussed that lifting the ban would (i) provide a person on a flight who wishes to commit a terrorist act with the capability of communicating reliably, in real time, with accomplices on the ground, which would greatly enhance the likelihood that such attempted terrorist activity would be successful; (ii) enable cell phones to act as switches to set off Improvised Explosive Devices secreted onto airplanes; and (iii) greatly increase the risks of cyberwarfare.

SSAC representatives also discussed that the United States’ aviation system is an extremely attractive target for terrorists, as compared with virtually any other country’s aviation system. The representatives also discussed the successful use of cell phones by terrorists in connection with attacks that did not involve air travel, and that such examples provide further evidence that

enabling reliable communications through cell phones on flights in the United States would greatly raise the risks that the number of attempted attacks would rise, as would the number of successful attacks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Fishel". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan G. Fishel

cc: John Leibovitz
Roger Noel
Brian Regan
Amanda Huetinck
Linda Chang
Julius Knapp