

PUBLIC SUBMISSION

As of: April 24, 2009
Received: February 11, 2009
Status: Posted
Posted: February 26, 2009
Tracking No. 808518ed
Comments Due: April 03, 2009
Submission Type: Web

Docket: DOS-2009-0009

60-Day Notice of Proposed Information Collection: Form DS-7002, Training/ Internship Placement Plan, OMB Control Number 1405-0170

Comment On: DOS-2009-0009-0001

Agency Information Collection Activities; Proposals, Submissions, and Approvals

Document: DOS-2009-0009-0002

Comment on DOS_FRDOC_0001-0584

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General Comment

This is to register my OPPOSITION to the indicated TSA-2008-0021 ruling!

The United States is known and respected for its aviation and high level of pilot training, exemplified in the last weeks by Capt. Sullenberger. This level of pilot training is dependent on General Aviation – the training ground for U.S. pilots.

My OPPOSITION to this ruling is as follows:

1) It could significantly curtail or eliminate many general aviation and historic aircraft operations and programs.

2) This ruling currently only applies to "large" aircraft, but can be extended to ALL aircraft!

I am the owner of an historic aircraft which is used not only for pilot training but for outreach. This plane has flown hundreds of children, introducing them to the wonders (and job opportunities!) of flight. Would we have to perform TSA-approved security screens on each under-privileged Detroit child we wish to take flying someday?

3) It threatens to undermine fundamental liberties and privileges of U.S. citizens. This ruling would, in effect, require governmental review and authority before I could operate my own personal vehicle! This proposal raises serious constitutional questions regarding personal liberty, privacy, and freedom of movement.

4) It could represent only a first step in a broader security policy that would risk suffocating the nation's valuable general-aviation activities, of which pilots such as Capt. Sullenberger are a product! With this proposal, the TSA would cross a line and enter new territory, extending its regulatory hand into areas previously and appropriately left to private citizens.

5) It would misappropriate attention and focus in our nation's efforts to enhance security, applying disproportionately vast resources and onerous restrictions to a comparatively limited area of risk. As Benjamin Franklin wrote: "They who can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety, deserve neither liberty nor safety." The LASP would sacrifice a considerable measure of your personal liberty in exchange for a very small measure of safety.