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From: David Toohey [mailto:dtoohey@lawmaster.com.au]

Sent: Thursday, 4 September 2003 9:55 AM

To: Carter, John Gordon (REPS)

Subject: Airport Security

Dear John

I understand that you are involved in some way with Airport Security arrangements in Australia and I wish to express my concern over "procedures" being implemented in Australian airports.

I have been a commercial pilot since approximately 1975 and have an absolute priority and conciousness for safety in all respects.

I now fly for my business and need entry to numerous airfields across the country. This was previously faciliated by gate codes which were not very secure at all, I agree. Especially in Townsville they were bypassed by walking through various buildings to get to an aircraft that was legitimately parked after arrival. On the one occasion where I tried notify the airport manager that I was on the field I was not able to contact any individual that appeared in any way to be interested. If I remember correctly I may have climbed the fence.

Aircraft run to time critical schedules which are the very reason for their existence. The problem now is that to access a legitimately positioned aircraft from many fields requires people to open those gates. Those people are rarely available quickly or predictably. There are almost always access ways onto the field that bypass those security arrangements.

My point is that: It appears to me that to secure a field requires an military level approach which will eventually become far too expensive . Secondly, what is currently being done seems to be an insurance liability mitigation exercise rather than improving safety. We are not effectively preventing persons with unlawful intent from entering sensitive areas but merely making it inconvenient for normal people to go about their lives but with increased costs which will be passed on one way or another to the public generally and perhaps me in particular.

Once again I state that the cost of safety is not my concern but the "seen to be done" cost certainly is.

Regards

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