

May 5, 2009

Dear Member of Parliament

I am writing to express The Canadian Chamber of Commerce's concerns with Bill C-310, *An Act to Provide Certain Rights to Air Passengers (Air Passengers' Bill of Rights)*. Bill C-310 is scheduled for its final hour of Second Reading debate on Friday, May 8th, 2009.

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce is Canada's largest and most representative business association. We represent more than 175,000 members from every industry and every region of Canada. While we see it is in the best interests of air travellers and the airline industry to have a formal policy preserving passenger rights, Bill C-310 does not effectively safeguard traveller interests. Rather, it is costly, potentially unfair in its application, and harmful to passengers and airlines.

Bill C-310 would levy punitive fines on airlines for numerous service issues, including extended tarmac delays that are often the result of factors outside of the control of the airline including airport congestion and air traffic control issues. Applying the penalties on airlines contained in the bill could compromise passenger safety by encouraging pilots to make riskier decisions about whether to fly or not. In addition to security concerns, potential penalties will also increase the cost of air travel to consumers.

While it is easy to understand the frustration of passengers having to endure cancellations or delays, the bill would have a number of unintended consequences in a vital Canadian industry and its users. We recommend that you vote against Bill C-310 at Second Reading. Instead of passing legislation that would generate major costs and security concerns, we urge Parliament to bring airlines, airports, passengers, and other stakeholders together to craft an effective and economically feasible model that preserves passenger rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Perrin Beatty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P" and a long, sweeping underline.

Perrin Beatty

Rob Clarke

Member of Parliament for Desnethé—Missinippi—Churchill River
 Député de Desnethé—Missinippi—Rivière Churchill



HOUSE OF COMMONS
 CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES

MAY 28 2009

OTTAWAMay 14th, 2009

Perrin Beatty
 President and CEO – The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
 Suite, 420, 360 Albert Street
 Ottawa, Ontario
 K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty,

I'd like to first thank you for taking the time to write to me. As a representative in Parliament, it is always important to know the concerns of local businesses and organizations so that I may better serve them in the future. I appreciate your views on Bill C-310 and will do my best to address them.

On the evening of May 13th, 2009, the Private Member's Bill C-310, *An Act to Provide Certain Rights to Air Passengers*, went to a vote to progress to second reading. While I am pleased to note that I rose against the vote, it sadly did in fact pass with a vote of 139-131. The Bill will now be read a second time and be referred to the Standing Committee on Transport, Infrastructure and Communities.

It is my hope that during the committee review the bill be amended to reflect the real needs of the airline industry and its passengers.

Again, I appreciate you taking the time to write to me, and I am glad that I represented your voice by voting against this Bill. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Yours Sincerely,

Rob Clarke, M.P.
 Desnethé-Missinippi-Churchill River

cf.

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Derek Lee, M.P.
Scarborough – Rouge River

May 22, 2009

Perrin Beatty
Office of the President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
360 Albert Street, Suite 420
Ottawa, Ontario
K1R 7X7

RE: Bill C-310, *An Act to Provide Certain Rights to Air Passengers*

Dear Mr. ^{Perrin}Beatty,

Thank you for your May 5th letter recommending that Bill C-310 not be passed. It was clearly the mood of the House to pass the Bill and send it to committee “for study”. This as you probably know does happen from time to time in the House, even though Second Reading is a passage “in principle”.

I believe that this Bill will receive serious scrutiny for the first time at committee (Government Bills receive much more scrutiny before they’re even introduced). I anticipate that my caucus colleagues will be sensitive to the unintended commercial impacts of such a Bill following closer study.

I too voted for the Bill along with my party colleagues on this occasion, but the Report Stage/Third Reading voters will have the benefit of committee study and better background.

Yours Truly,

Derek Lee

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Leader of the
Government in the Senate and
Minister of State (Seniors)



Leader du
gouvernement au Sénat et
ministre d'État (Aînés)

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0A4

The Honourable L'honorable
Marjory LeBreton, P.C.,c.p.

June 8, 2009

The Honourable Perrin Beatty, P.C.
Canadian Chamber of Commerce
360 Albert Street, Suite 420
Ottawa, ON
K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty,

Thank you for your recent letter addressing Bill C-310, an NDP Private Member's Bill regarding airline passenger rights.

In a time of economic uncertainty, the punitive measures included in Bill C-310 would hurt our airlines and put Canadian jobs at risk, in addition to adding unwarranted fees that would eventually be passed on to the consumer. This Bill does not strike the appropriate balance between protecting consumers and ensuring the financial sustainability of our airlines.

Industry representatives have been very clear in communicating that the fines and penalties proposed in this Bill would reduce the financial viability of many airline routes in Canada. This loss of service would have a serious economic impact on Canadians in many communities, and the Government of Canada is not prepared to support a Bill that would produce such disastrous affects, in addition to hurting economic competitiveness and killing jobs.

Thank you, Mr. Beatty, for expressing your concerns about Bill C-310. It is my hope that the views of the Government are more in line with the position of the Canadian Chamber of Commerce concerning this Private Member's Bill.

Sincerely,

Marjory LeBreton

Just so you know how we are responding!
I met your **Canada** Patrick on Friday - you must be proud of him!

RECEIVED JUN 22 2009

Minister of Labour



Ministre du Travail

JUN 22 2009

Ottawa, Canada K1A 0J2

June 12, 2009

Perrin Beatty,
President, Canadian Chamber of Commerce
360 rue Albert St.
Suite 420
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for your letter on the matter of Bill C-310, *An Act to Provide Certain Rights to Air Passengers (Air Passengers' Bill of Rights)*. This is an issue that concerns many Canadians, and I appreciate your interest.

Our Government will not allow the punitive measures included in Bill C-310 to hurt our airlines and put Canadian jobs at risk. The long list of fines and penalties included in C-310 would reduce the financial viability of many airline routes in Canada, and loss of service would have a serious economic impact on the communities affected.

Major airlines, through the National Airlines Council of Canada, are proposing major changes which would enshrine certain passenger rights in their tariffs. I am confident that these measures will address the concerns of airline passengers and eliminate the need for punitive legislative measures.

I hope that this response addresses the concerns you have outlined in your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Rona Ambrose'.

Hon. Rona Ambrose, P.C., M.P.

Canada

RECEIVED JUN 19 2009



CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES
HOUSE OF COMMONS

Hon. Bob Rae

Member of Parliament for Toronto Centre
Député de Toronto-Centre

June 17, 2009

The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Attn: Mr. Perrin Beatty
420-360 Albert St.
Ottawa, ON
K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty,

I am in receipt of your recent letter, dated May 5, 2009, in which you express your opposition to Bill C-310 *An Act to Provide Certain Rights to Air Passengers*. Your comments on this important issue are insightful and greatly appreciated.

The Canadian airline industry plays an important role in Canada's commercial sector, representing thousands of jobs as well as a wide variety of services. As with any crucial decision, Bill C-310 would have far reaching consequences that would affect the livelihood of both individuals and corporations. It is for this reason, among others, that I will be sure to carefully consider the merits of this Bill in conjunction with the needs and concerns of the members of the airline industry. I will be sure to consider your comments and suggestions when evaluating Bill C-310.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write on this important issue. Please do not hesitate to contact me again on this or any other issue.

Sincerely,

Hon. Bob Rae
Member of Parliament – Toronto Centre

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