

JOHN GARAMENDI
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July 12, 2019

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio, Chairman
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Sam Graves, Ranking Member
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Rick Larsen, Chairman
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Garret Graves, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairmen DeFazio and Larsen and Ranking Members Graves and Graves:

I respectfully request that you schedule a hearing on my “Cabin Air Safety Act of 2019” (H.R.2208), which enjoys bipartisan support and is endorsed by every major organization representing those working in the commercial airline industry and leading consumer safety advocates.

All Americans have the right to expect safe, clean air when travelling or reporting to work. Like many of our Congressional colleagues, I am deeply concerned by the documented cases where pilots, flight attendants, and other airline crewmembers have become sick and even hospitalized from toxic cabin air. As you may know, these “toxic fume” events occur when air contaminated by engine exhaust, fuel fumes, de-icing fluids, and ozone enters the aircraft cabin through the jet engine intake. Exposure to even low levels of these contaminants can incapacitate passengers and crew, and long-term exposure could lead to serious, debilitating health issues.

The “Cabin Air Safety Act of 2019” (H.R.2208) takes commonsense steps to protect airline passengers and crew by: requiring training for airline crewmembers and first responders; requiring the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to record, monitor, and investigate reports of toxic fume events; and mandating that carbon monoxide sensors be installed on all commercial aircraft.

It is my understanding that the European Union’s Aviation Safety Agency is already working to implement many of these same requirements, which would effectively set a new standard for the global airline industry. Our Committee and the Congress need to also address these critical issues for airline passengers and crew. I stand ready to help coordinate any hearing and recommend bipartisan witnesses.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John Garamendi".

JOHN GARAMENDI
Member of Congress