

Docket No. OST 2000-8164
US DOT Dockets
Room PL-401
400 Seventh St. SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

**SUBJECT: "Reporting the Causes of Airline Delays and Cancellations"
(FR Vol. 66, No. 248, Thursday, December 27, 2001, p. 66833)**

The purpose of this letter is to register support for the proposal to require airlines to report the causes of significant departure delays, as well as flight cancellations. Requiring the collection and reporting of such data will enable journalists and consumers to publish and compare data on the relative performance of various airlines, thereby exerting competitive pressure on them to improve their performance. Significant benefits to consumers, as well as to overall air transportation scheduling efficiency, are likely to accrue with minimal associated cost.

However, in order for the program to be effective, it will be necessary for the agency to verify that the actual causes of delays and cancellations are accurately and completely reported. To ensure this, the list of possible causes for delays and cancellations should be complete, including those motivated by increased profitability at consumer expense, such as canceling a half-full flight in order to combine it with a later flight to the same destination. In addition, the agency should conduct periodic audits of the airlines' data collection, processing, and reporting procedures to ensure that the intent of the requirements is being served by the airlines' compliance efforts.

In closing, I urge the agency to finalize the proposed rule with attention to the aforementioned issues. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
/submitted electronically/
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