

There was no objection.

ORDER OF AMENDMENTS DURING CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2115, FLIGHT 100-CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that during the consideration of H.R. 2115, pursuant to House Resolution 265, it shall be in order to consider amendment No. 5 as printed in the report of the Committee on Rules before consideration of any other amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2115.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS REGARDING H.R. 2115, FLIGHT 100-CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert into the RECORD at this point an exchange of letters between the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG), the gentleman from Louisiana (Chairman TAUZIN), the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) regarding H.R. 2115.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

The letters referred to follow:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2003.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I am writing with regard to H.R. 2115, the Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, which was ordered reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 21, 2003.

I recognize your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner. Accordingly, I will not exercise my Committee's right to a referral. By agreeing to waive its consideration of the bill, however, the Energy and Commerce Committee does not waive its jurisdiction over H.R. 2115. In addition, the Energy and Commerce Committee reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions of the bill that are within its jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation. I ask for your commitment to support

any request by the Energy and Commerce Committee for conferees on H.R. 2115 or similar legislation.

I request that you include this letter as part of the Committee's Report on H.R. 2115 and in the Record during consideration of the legislation on the House floor. Thank you for your attention to these matters.

Sincerely,

W.J. "BILLY" TAUZIN,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 6, 2003.

Hon. W.J. (BILLY) TAUZIN,
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of June 6, 2003 regarding H.R. 2115, the Flight 100—Century of Aviation Act and for your willingness to waive consideration of provisions in the bill that falls within your Committee's jurisdiction under House Rules.

I agree that your waiving consideration of these provisions of H.R. 2115 does not waive your Committee's jurisdiction over the bill. I also acknowledge your right to seek conferees on any provisions that are under your Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 2115 or similar legislation, and will support your request for conferees on such provisions.

As you request, your letter and this response will be included in the Committee report on the legislation and in the Congressional Record.

Thank you for your cooperation in moving this important legislation to the House floor.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES,
Washington, DC, June 4, 2003.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I have reviewed the text of H.R. 2115, Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, as ordered reported from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on May 21, 2003. The Committee on Resources has a jurisdictional interest in Section 408, Overflights of National Parks.

Recognizing your wish that this critical bill be considered by the House of Representatives as soon as possible, and noting the continued strong spirit of cooperation between our Committees, I will forego seeking a sequential referral of H.R. 2115 for the Committee on Resources. However, waiving the Committee on Resources' right to a referral in this case does not waive the Committee's jurisdiction over any provision in H.R. 2115 or similar provisions in other bills. In addition, I ask that you support my request to have the Committee on Resources represented on the conference on this bill, if a conference is necessary. Finally, I ask that you include this letter in the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's bill report.

I appreciate your leadership and cooperation on this bill and I look forward to working with you to see that H.R. 2115 is enacted into law soon.

Sincerely,

RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 4, 2003.

Hon. RICHARD W. POMBO,
Chairman, Committee on Resources, Longworth Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of June 4, 2003, regarding H.R. 2115, the Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, and for your willingness to waive consideration of the provision in the bill that falls within your Committee's jurisdiction under House Rules.

I agree that your waiving consideration of this provision of H.R. 2115 does not waive your Committee's jurisdiction over the bill. I also acknowledge your right to seek conferees on any provisions that are under your Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 2115 or similar legislation, and will support your request for conferees on such provisions.

As you request, your letter and this response will be included in the Committee report on the legislation.

Thank you for your cooperation in moving this important legislation to the House floor.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE,
Washington, DC, June 6, 2003.

Hon. DON YOUNG
Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN YOUNG: I have reviewed H.R. 2115, Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. The bill authorizes research and development (R&D) programs that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science.

In deference to your desire to bring this legislation before the House in an expeditious manner, I will not exercise this Committee's right to consider H.R. 2115—provided that your Committee acknowledges the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science over R&D programs regardless of the account from which they are funded. Further, the Committee on Science reserves its right to seek conferees on any provisions that are within this Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference that may be convened on this legislation and a corresponding Senate bill.

Specifically, the Committee on Science has jurisdiction over portions of section 102. That section authorizes, among other things, R&D programs within the Facilities & Equipment Account. This includes programs that the Committee on Appropriations transferred to the Facilities & Equipment Account in 1999. The Committee retains its right to such conferees on other portions of this bill related to R&D.

I request that you include this letter as part of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during consideration of the legislation on the House floor.

Sincerely,

SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, June 6, 2003.

Hon. SHERWOOD BOEHLERT,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 2115, the Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. I

appreciate your offer to waive consideration of the bill.

Traditionally, the Transportation Committee has authorized the equipment deployment functions from the Federal Aviation Administration Facilities and Equipment (F&E) account. I recognize that in certain years functions under the jurisdiction of the Science Committee were moved from the FAA Research, Engineering and Development (RED) account to the F&E account through the annual appropriations process. While I believe that these unauthorized appropriations do not have any bearing on committee jurisdiction, I prefer that the Appropriations Committee adhere to the authorizing language and refrain from moving functions from the RED account to the F&E account in order to benefit from a slower spend-out rate. For example, I would prefer that the Advanced Technology Development and Prototyping program remain in the RED account.

Historically, the Science Committee has had oversight and authorization responsibility over the RED account while the Transportation Committee has had exclusive jurisdiction over the F&E account. I believe that continuing this practice is the best way to preserve the jurisdiction of both committees.

I thank you for your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you and your staff. As you request, a copy of your letter and my response will be placed in the RECORD.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2003.

Hon. DON YOUNG,
Chairman, Committee on transportation and Infrastructure, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. YOUNG: I am writing regarding H.R. 2115, "the Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act." As you know, the bill includes provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Reform. Section 404, Clarifications to procurement authority and Section 438 Definition of air traffic each contain provisions within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Government Reform.

In the interests of moving this important legislation forward, I have not asked for a sequential referral of this bill. However, the Committee does hold an interest in preserving its future jurisdiction with respect to issues raised in the aforementioned provisions, and its jurisdictional prerogatives should the provisions of this bill or any Senate amendments thereto be considered in a conference with the Senate. I respectfully request your support for the appropriate appointment of Members of the Committee should such a conference arise.

Finally, I would ask that you include a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter in the Congressional Record during floor consideration. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

TOM DAVIS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2003.

Hon. TOM DAVIS,
Chairman, Committee on Government Reform, Rayburn Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter of June 11, 2003 regarding H.R. 2115, the Flight 100—Century of Aviation Act, and

for your willingness to waive consideration of provisions in the bill that falls within your Committee's jurisdiction under House Rules.

I agree that your waiving consideration of these provisions of H.R. 2115 does not waive your Committee's jurisdiction over the bill. I also acknowledge your right to seek conferees on any provisions that are under your Committee's jurisdiction during any House-Senate conference on H.R. 2115 or similar legislation, and will support your request for conferees on such provisions.

As you request, your letter and this response will be in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Thank you for your cooperation in moving this important legislation to the House Floor.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

FLIGHT 100—CENTURY OF AVIATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 265 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2115.

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IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2115) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes, with Mr. BASS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG).

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, on the occasion of the 100 years of powered flight, I rise in support of H.R. 2115, Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act of 2003.

H.R. 2115 addresses the needs of the national aviation system today and in turn provides for its future. The Federal Aviation Administration oversees and ensures the safe and efficient use of our Nation's air space. The bill before us now supports this important work.

It reauthorizes FAA for 4 years and allows for modest increases in funding levels for fiscal years 2003 through 2007. H.R. 2115 also ensures that the Aviation Trust Fund is used to finance airport capacity and safety projects. It also continues to provide general funds to pay for FAA safety functions that are in the public interest.

Additionally, the bill makes a number of important legislative changes, such as:

Funding the Small Community Air Service Program and the Essential Air Service Program;

Increasing the number of slots at Reagan National Airport;

Streamlining airport project reviews as passed by the House twice last year; and

Prohibiting the privatization of functions performed by air traffic controllers.

It goes without saying that the aviation industry is vital to the U.S. economy. H.R. 2115 provides for its stability and, more importantly, for its continued growth.

I want to thank the full committee ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), for working with me to draft H.R. 2115. As a result of this cooperative effort, we have bipartisan legislation that everyone in this House can fully support.

I especially want to thank the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO). H.R. 2115 clearly represents the hard work and the long hours they and their staff put into this effort. I appreciate their dedication in ensuring that the United States continues to have the safest and most efficient aviation system in the world.

For that reason, I join with the full committee ranking member, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR); the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA); and the ranking member, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), in urging the immediate passage of this bipartisan bill.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 7 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I, too, of course rise in support of H.R. 2115, Flight 100—Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act. It is appropriate that we apply that title to the bill in this year; it is the 100th anniversary of flight. When you think how far the world has come in aviation in just 100 years, it is really extraordinary. No other technology in the field of transportation can match the speed with which we have advanced the cause of aviation in this 100 years.

We have worked in a very diligent and bipartisan manner over many weeks and months; and I want to thank the chairman, the gentleman from Alaska, for the frequent and thorough and intensive conversations we have had to shape this legislation, come together in agreement on the many sticky issues that we had to confront in shaping this bill, and the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA), who has always been available and readily available to discuss and iron out the many complex issues.

I want to compliment the ranking member on our side, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), whose 18-plus years, 20 years of intensive work