

Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs
CC: file
Date: September 2, 2005
Re: Update

You and our membership should be aware that the FAA and Lockheed have been aggressively lobbying congress to defeat our amendment. Their arguments are nothing new but they are, nonetheless, troublesome and misleading. We are again refining our congressional presentation to counter these arguments and I will forward a copy to you as soon as it is finalized. You should also know that AOPA, including Phil Boyer, has been on Capitol Hill professing now how wonderful the Lockheed deal is for employees and how necessary the unproven technology is for FSS modernization. Although he's been very contradictory in his past statements on this outsourcing, we've learned that his real concern is avoiding user fees at any cost or sacrifice. Of course you already know the shortsightedness of his approach. Again, our rebuttal will accurately address the current state of affairs.

It remains critical that our EKN membership contact Senator Byrd's State Director Anne Barth and explain how this award will disadvantage his constituents. Senator Byrd will not meet with lobbyists, NAATS or Lockheed, so this must be a constituent effort in order to be successful. Again, we are asking that the Senator take a leadership role in preserving EKN AFSS and preserving the current AFSS structure through the next fiscal year. If our members have any questions please direct them to me.

Congress is returning early to address the Katrina tragedy and that, understandably, has priority. The best guess is that the transportation appropriations bill will go to the floor the week of September 12. Extensive debate is not expected but no one knows for sure on either the timing or procedure.

We are continuing to work the offices here and we very much appreciate our membership's efforts with their respective senators and their staffs. Please feel free to contact me with any questions.