

Memo

To: Kate Breen, NAATS President
From: Wally Pike, Congressional Affairs
CC: file
Date: October 7, 2005
Re: Update

The Senate will reconvene at 2 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 17 to begin consideration of the fiscal 2006 Transportation-Treasury-Housing appropriations bill (HR 3058). At least one roll call vote is expected.

The bad news is that our amendment is in trouble. Senator Johnson's staff continues to waver on offering the amendment and, so far, no other Senator is willing to offer it if Johnson doesn't.

Some have questioned how the Senate can stop the process now. The fact is the legislative process is just now addressing the matter and the FAA chose to disregard the two Congressional letters requesting a delay in the transition to Lockheed. As the old saying goes, Congress can do whatever it wants to, including voiding this award.

Even if we lost the amendment vote, the results would show strong Senate concern for the affected employees. This would serve to bolster our arguments about the retirement concerns and the associated necessary corrections. The House/Senate HR 3058 conferees could adopt a resolution to that effect that would avoid the necessity of enacting corrective legislation.

I will continue to work toward getting the amendment offered. I'm also working on convincing the key offices (Murray, Bond, etc) that, at the very least, the retirement issues must be addressed retroactively.

As always, membership constituent efforts are essential if we're to have a reasonable chance of success on these efforts.