



Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

Bill Shuster
Chairman

Peter A. DeFazio
Ranking Member

Mathew M. Sturges, Staff Director

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Katherine W. Dedrick, Democratic Staff Director

DON'T BE MISLED ABOUT THE CAUSES OF FLIGHT DELAYS

Oppose the Privatization of Air Traffic Control in H.R. 2997, the 21st Century AIRR Act

Dear Colleague:

The special interests— mostly, big airlines— behind H.R. 2997, the 21st Century AIRR Act, which will privatize our Nation's air traffic control (ATC) system, justify their dubious case for ATC privatization by saying it will reduce flight delays. And they blame the ATC system for those delays, which they allege caused \$25 billion in added costs to passengers and businesses last year.

Don't be misled.

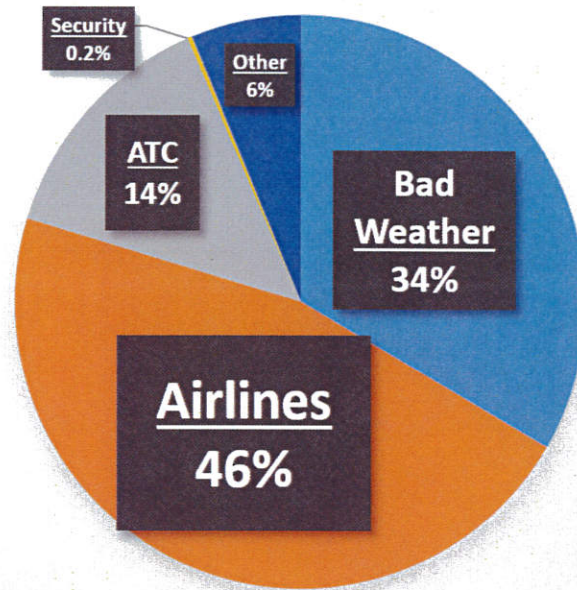
According to the most recently available Federal data from the U.S. Bureau of Transportation Statistics (BTS), **more delays were caused by the airlines' own operational failures than by any other issue. Airline operational problems, listed below, caused 46 percent of all flight delays in June 2017: 3.5 times the number of delays caused by the ATC system. And bad weather caused twice as many delays as did ATC.**

To put a dollar figure on the problem, airlines' operational problems and weather combined caused \$20 billion of the \$25 billion cost of flight delays in 2016.

One of the reasons for delays by the airlines is computer system failures. In the last two years alone, the airlines' failure to invest in their own computer systems and similar omissions have caused no less than **40 major outages**, stranding and displacing potentially millions of paying customers.

When the airlines' trade association, behind the mask of the airlines' "grassroots" organization Citizens for On Time Flights, tells you H.R. 2997 and ATC privatization will reduce flight delays, **remind the airlines that, if they're serious about reducing delays, they need to get their own houses in order first.**

AIRLINES CAUSE NEARLY HALF OF ALL FLIGHT DELAYS



Source: Analysis of BTS data

Besides Bad Weather . . .

Potential Causes of Airline Delays

Airline computer system failures
Maintenance problems

Over-scheduling of flights
Aircraft cleaning
Baggage loading
Fueling
Ramp and ground personnel scheduling and coordination
Crew scheduling
Slowing down flights to save fuel

Potential Causes of ATC Delays

Airport operations
Heavy traffic volume due to airlines' over-scheduling
Closed runways or taxiways

We urge you to join the bipartisan opposition to H.R. 2997 when it comes to the House Floor. A vote against H.R. 2997 is a vote in favor of permitting the Federal Aviation Administration to continue work on an airspace modernization program that has already generated \$2.7 billion in benefits and is on track to generate more than \$160 billion in benefits by 2030. If you have any questions, please contact us or Alex Burkett, Democratic Staff Director of the House Aviation Subcommittee, at extension 5-9161.

Sincerely,


PETER DeFAZIO
Ranking Member


RICK LARSEN
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Aviation