

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2506
November 13, 2007

Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff,

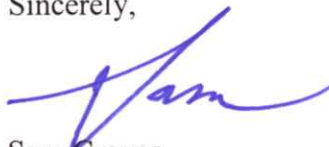
I am writing to you regarding a rule that was recently proposed by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), *Advance Information on Private Aircraft Arriving and Departing the United States*. While I support the efforts of CBP and the Department of Homeland Security to enhance the security of international flights, this proposed rule has generated a significant amount of concern from the general aviation community.

Specifically, the proposed rule requires that general aviation pilots electronically transmit notice of arrival/departure data and passenger manifest information to CBP when preparing to fly internationally. The proposed rule assumes that pilots will have access to a computer and Internet access to make the electronic transmission. However, private pilots often fly internationally to destinations such as the Caribbean or Mexico that do not have the infrastructure or capability to provide Internet access.

In a situation where departure is from a location without Internet service, the proposed rule would require the pilot to fly to a different location within that country and submit the proper information before being cleared for departure back to the United States. This would be extremely burdensome, costly and impractical for pilots attempting to return to the United States from a remote location abroad. Currently, private pilots are able to report arrival information and other relevant data to CBP via radio, telephone or through Federal Aviation Administration flight notification procedure. It would seem logical that these alternative methods continue to be available for transmitting the requisite information to CBP. With that in mind, I respectfully request justification from the Department as to why pilots would be required to electronically submit arrival/departure information and other relevant data.

Given the potential effects that this rule would have on general aviation, I would also encourage CBP to extend the comment period for another 60 days to close on January 18, 2008, so that interested parties have adequate opportunity to assess the impact of the proposed rule and suggest alternatives. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Sam Graves
Member of Congress