

ENROLLED SENATE  
RESOLUTION NO. 4

By: Leftwich

A Resolution memorializing the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to discourage any effort by the Federal Aviation Administration to privatize, contract, outsource, or commercialize elements of the United States air traffic control system.

WHEREAS, a federal workforce, financed by the public and responsible for the public trust, is essential for aviation safety. Commercializing elements of the United States air traffic control system, as well as aviation flight inspections, will compromise the safety of the flying public and is not in the best interests of the citizens of Oklahoma and the United States; and

WHEREAS, Federal Aviation Administration employees have demonstrated their commitment to protecting the safety of the flying public, while history has shown that private industry is driven primarily by economic factors and a profit motive. Turning over the safety responsibilities of the Federal Aviation Administration workforce to private contractors allows the aviation industry to regulate itself and creates a conflict of interest; and

WHEREAS, other countries, with less complicated air traffic control systems, have privatized their systems with disastrous results. The United Kingdom, for example, is in financial trouble and has endured several complete shutdowns of its air traffic control systems since the beginning of 2002; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation, Office of the Inspector General determined in a November 2002 report: "We have consistently found a lack of basic contract administration at every stage of contract management from contract award to contract closeout." There is no reason to believe the removal of basic safety functions from the Federal Aviation Administration workforce will not be equally unmanageable. This will, in turn, increase the burden on the federal budget and put an increased tax burden upon the citizens of Oklahoma; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Aviation Administration has changed the designation of several air traffic service elements from "inherently governmental" to "commercial"; and

WHEREAS, Federal Aviation Administration employees performing the aforementioned safety functions responded patriotically during our nation's crisis on September 11, 2001, by assuring that the

United States air traffic control system operated smoothly and efficiently as air traffic was halted.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 49TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate memorializes the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation to take all action to actively support passage of any legislation that restricts commercialization of the elements of the United States air traffic control system and strongly support any action to stop the efforts to turn over operation of the United States air traffic control system to profit or nonprofit corporations rather than the federal government.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to each member of the Oklahoma Congressional Delegation, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, and the President of the United States.

Adopted by the Senate the 21st day of May, 2003.

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Presiding Officer of the Senate