



AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION

■ **JAMES C. MAY**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

April 30, 2009

The Vice President  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Vice President:

On behalf of the nation's airlines, I am writing to express my extreme disappointment at your suggestion that people should avoid air travel in response to the H1N1 flu outbreak. You should be aware that the airlines have been working daily with the cadre of government agencies responding to the outbreak and that we are taking all appropriate actions to assure the health of our customers and our employees. While individuals who are feeling ill should remain home, no responsible officials or healthcare professionals have suggested that people avoid air travel. The fact is that the air onboard a commercial aircraft is cleaner than that in most public buildings.

As I am certain you would agree, we need to deal responsibly with the flu threat but, at the same time, while following professional healthcare advice, keep our economy moving forward.

Sincerely,

cc: The Honorable Ray LaHood  
The Air Transport Association Board of Directors

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**AIR TRANSPORT ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.**

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