Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 11, 2014

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Music has a great impact on our country, both culturally and economically. Our states are home to not only some of the world's greatest musicians, but also to some of the world's greatest music venues – attracting millions of people to performances every year. But, with damaged instruments – or without instruments at all – those performances cannot happen and those venues fall silent, as musicians are left without the tools of their trade.

Countless stories have emerged over the years of musicians whose guitars, lutes, flutes and other musical instruments have been damaged because of a patchwork series of airline policies that put these fragile and valuable instruments in danger. Musicians arrive to their destinations only to learn their instruments were lost or find their instruments damaged, with little if any time to replace them before a scheduled performance. This puts livelihoods at risk.

To help keep this from happening, Congress included a provision in the 2012 FAA Modernization and Reform Act (P.L. 112-95) that required the FAA to promulgate rules permitting airline passengers to stow their instruments on board in closets or overhead compartments, or if necessary, purchase an extra seat to store their instrument. As we approach the statutory deadline for that rule, we are disappointed to learn the process has not yet even begun.

We understand the budgetary pinch that many agencies have found themselves in, but the relatively modest cost of promulgating this rule should not have hindered its completion. We urge you to ensure this rulemaking is a priority as you are finalizing your funding decisions for the current and upcoming fiscal year.

Sincerely,

Lamar Alexander
U.S. Senate

Jim Cooper
U.S. House of Representatives

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Louise M. Slaughter
U.S. House of Representatives

Howard Coble
U.S. House of Representatives

Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives

Leonard Lance
U.S. House of Representatives

Steve Cohen
U.S. House of Representatives

Marsha Blackburn
U.S. House of Representatives

Billy Long
U.S. House of Representatives

Lee Terry
U.S. House of Representatives

Glenn 'GT' Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives

Blake Farenthold
U.S. House of Representatives

Tony Cárdenas
U.S. House of Representatives

Collin Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives

Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives

Alcee Hastings
U.S. House of Representatives

Jim Moran
U.S. House of Representatives

Donna M. Christensen
U.S. House of Representatives

Wm. Lacy Clay
U.S. House of Representatives

André Carson
U.S. House of Representatives

Scott Peters
U.S. House of Representatives

Michael Michaud
U.S. House of Representatives

Carolyn Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives

Marc Veasey
U.S. House of Representatives

Roger Williams
U.S. House of Representatives

Yvette Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives

David Cicilline
U.S. House of Representatives

Judy Chu
U.S. House of Representatives

Jim McDermott
U.S. House of Representatives

Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives

Keith Ellison
U.S. House of Representatives

Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives

Madeleine Z. Bordallo
U.S. House of Representatives

Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives

Adam Schiff
U.S. House of Representatives

cc: The Honorable Michael P. Huerta, FAA Administrator