



Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IAPA joins the call for a special session on energy by U.S. lawmakers

IAPA has joined with other leaders in the travel industry in calling for a special session of the U.S. Congress to produce a viable, long-term energy policy. In an open letter to President Bush due to be published Monday, industry leaders urge the President to compel lawmakers to set aside political posturing and go beyond short-term proposals, such as steps to curb speculation on oil prices, and enact sensible, forward-thinking energy legislation.

“Many of us in the travel industry – which is being decimated by rapidly rising fuel prices and uncertainty about the future -- believe that curbing speculation may have merit, but know it is not the whole answer,” the letter states. “Our view is that we need to do all we can on every front, but that optimizing our efforts requires an integrated, comprehensive, well thought out national energy policy,” it continues.

Appealing to the political will of lawmakers, the letter also warns: “In the absence of a sound, long-term energy policy, the fear now taking its toll on businesses and jobs will spread. In such an environment, no Congressional seat will or should be safe this November.”

The open letter to the President, drafted by Kevin Mitchell, chairman of the Business Travel Coalition and Robert Crandall, former Chairman and CEO of American Airlines, is intended to draw attention to the lack of a comprehensive energy policy by the United States, comparing the nation’s large energy consumption and related costs to the absence of effective, wide-ranging solutions. “Our central problem is confidence – confidence now eroded by the perception that the most powerful country in the world, a country consuming 24% of the world’s output and spending \$700 billion annually to continue doing so, lacks the political will to address the problem,” the letter asserts. “A coherent, long-term national energy policy framed and supported by a bipartisan majority of the Congress, before the Democratic and Republican conventions, would reverse the perception that America can no longer deal with her problems,” the letter adds.

IAPA supports the efforts of industry leaders to call for those at the highest levels of government to debate and implement a sustainable, long-term energy policy for the United States. Though the scope of this effort goes far beyond any single business and its customers, our commitment to advocacy on behalf of IAPA members includes the support of initiatives that result in a healthier, more secure and vibrant airline industry.

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Notes to the Editor:

About IAPA

IAPA (The International Airline Passenger Association) has been at the forefront of travel issues for over 40 years. IAPA was set up to represent the interests of frequent air travelers by protecting and promoting their rights as airline passengers, as well as providing them with special group discounts on items such as hotel accommodation, car rental and insurance.

Since its inception IAPA has been campaigning on behalf of frequent travelers - on safety and security, improving passenger comfort and getting better value for money. We pride ourselves in informing our members about the wider travel community issues that affect them, and represent airline passenger interests to industry and government bodies.

We strive to meet the needs of the frequent flyer and continue to stand up for the rights of the individual passenger at all opportunities.

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