

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

Representing America's Finest

317 South Patrick Street. ~ Alexandria, Virginia ~ 22314-3501

(703) 549-0775 ~ (800) 322-NAPO ~ Fax: (703) 684-0515

www.napo.org ~ Email: info@napo.org



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Executive Director

February 1, 2011

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
502 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), representing 241,000 rank-and-file police officers from across the United States, I would like to thank and commend you for your support to secure aircraft cockpits against laser pointers. The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee recently passed H.R. 386, a bill that would prohibit the aiming of a laser beam at an aircraft or in its flight path by punishing offenders with an imposed fine or prison term.

The Federal Flight Deck Officers Association is a member of NAPO. Together, we have a vested interest in protecting pilots and passengers from the harmful effects of laser pointers. On January 19, 2010, the Federal Aviation Administration announced that the reports of laser pointers being pointed at aircrafts basically doubled in one year from 1,400 to 2,800 incidents. Laser beams pointed at an aircraft can cause temporary blindness to pilots and jeopardize aviation security.

Helping to protect our nation from potential gaps in the enforcement of homeland security is one of NAPO's top priorities. NAPO urges both chambers to take swift action in passage of legislation that seeks to bolster security and thwart criminal acts.

Securing cockpits is an important safety measure that law enforcement is willing to support. NAPO believes H.R. 386 and companion legislation is essential to assist the law enforcement community in the protection of our nation from security threats. If you have any questions on how NAPO can support your efforts, please feel free to contact me, or NAPO's Director of Government Affairs, Rachel Hedge, at (703) 549-0774.

Sincerely,

William J. Johnson
Executive Director

cc: Senator Mark Kirk
Senator Barbara Boxer
Representative Daniel Lungren