



Ryan Ellis, Executive Director

May 3, 2006

Worker Rights Group WILL RATE a Vote AGAINST HR 5449, FAA Union Giveaway Bill

Tonight and tomorrow, HR 5449 is slated to be on the suspension calendar. This misguided bill would take away the ability to the Federal Aviation Administration to resolve its current labor dispute with the air traffic controllers union in a timely manner. **This costly bill, which is little more than a sop to corrupt labor unions, is too controversial and has no place on the suspension calendar.**

In 1996, Congress wrong-headedly allowed air traffic controllers to collectively-bargain with the FAA. In the event of a labor impasse, the FAA would be allowed to implement its final offer after a 60-day review. Removing this 60-day protection for taxpayers is tantamount to changing the rules in the middle of the game—and in favor of the National Air Traffic Controllers' Union.

This bill is expensive (costing taxpayers \$1.9 billion over five years), a giveaway to our opponents, and divisive. At the very least, it should have to proceed via regular order. With the average air traffic controller making \$173,000 in pay and benefits, Congress doesn't need to stack the deck in the union's favor by using special rules and gimmicks.

President Reagan knew back in 1981 that the controllers' union was holding air traffic hostage with labor gimmicks—does our Republican Congressional majority today?

ATR reserves the right to score any vote associated with HR 5499, including but not limited to procedural motions, amendments, and final passage.

AWF WILL RATE A VOTE ON THIS BILL