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June 16, 1986 letter to Jim Lightfoot from Glickman

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June 16, 1986

The Honorable Jim Lightfoot
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Jim:

I certainly appreciate your thoughts on various provisions of H.R. 4142, the "General Aviation Tort Reform Act of 1986." I value your opinions not only as a colleague but as a businessman and pilot with many years of experience in general aviation.

As you know, I have held extensive discussions with representatives of the AOPA who raised concerns similar to yours. Frankly, these concerns are valid and the suggested changes have merit. I am certainly amenable to modifications of the bill that will make it stronger and its passage more secure, including the areas of a statute of repose, a statute of limitation, the legal defense under 284, and the burden of proof. But I think that any agreement on changes in the bill would be more appropriately addressed after hearings are completed. While we have heard from many interested parties on this legislation already, including the valuable discussions we have had with AOPA representatives, new information or insights may come out in the hearings that are not anticipated. Consequently, I feel we may be premature to begin settling on final details at this point in time.

I am confident that the issues you raised along with the AOPA can be settled expeditiously after the hearings and before mark-up. Let me further assure you that I will vigorously support compromise on these relatively minor issues at that time.

Like you, Jim, I recognize that the industry, and perhaps all of general aviation, may not survive this crisis unless we in Congress move quickly to gain control over the product liability problem. We also must recognize that it will take a united front if we hope to pass a reasonable bill, like H.R. 4142, in time to save the industry. Your recognized expertise in general aviation can be instrumental in gaining support among our colleagues and ultimately passage of the bill. I would, therefore, welcome and encourage your cosponsorship of this bill.

With best regards,

Dan Clickman,
Member of Congress

DG:skts