



February 7, 2011

The Honorable Roy Blunt
U.S. Senator
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Amendment (SA 5) to S. 223, FAA Reauthorization

Dear Senator Blunt:

The Business Coalition for Fair Competition (BCFC), www.governmentcompetition.org, is a national coalition of businesses, associations, taxpayer organizations and think tanks that are committed to reducing all forms of unfair government created, sponsored and provided competition with the private sector. BCFC believes the free enterprise system is the most productive and efficient provider of goods and services and strongly supports the federal government utilizing the private sector for commercially available products and services to the maximum extent possible.

BCFC commends your amendment (SA 5) to S. 223, the FAA Reauthorization. The amendment would require the federal Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to use private security personnel if local airport officials don't want government employees staffing the metal detectors and passenger screening. Federal law has allowed airports the option of using private screeners, who are hired and overseen by the TSA. Your proposal would require the federal government to approve the use of private security screeners within 30 days of a request. The amendment would end the TSA's new arbitrary cap on the private screening program and allow the program to continue to operate as it has for the past decade. Currently, the TSA has an arbitrary cap of 16 on the number of airports nationwide that can employ private screeners.

The Office of Management and Budget has listed security guard and protective services as a commercial activity-- that is an activity performed by a commercial entity, such as firms found on Main Street USA, or in the "Yellow Pages". As such, your amendment would provide an opportunity for the private sector to perform a commercial activity, and decrease the amount of government duplication and competition with the private sector.

BCFC respectfully urges the Senate to approve your amendment to S. 223.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John M. Palatiello", written in a cursive style.

John M. Palatiello, President

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