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FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE ON
VETERANS' AFFAIRS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4605

JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

August 14, 2008

Mr. James C. May
The Air Transport Authority
1301 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Suite 1100
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. May:

My purpose in writing is to add my strong endorsement to a request you received from George J. Lisicki, the national commander of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, for your assistance in obtaining an exemption for U.S. military service members from the \$100 fee now being charged for a third piece of checked baggage.

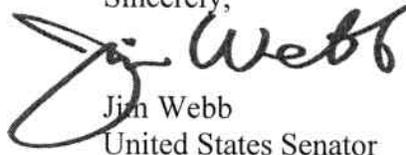
I understand that personnel assigned to each branch of the U.S. armed services total less than 1 percent of total passengers carried by U.S. airlines annually. While I am mindful of the economic challenges facing carriers today, waiving the excess-baggage fee for our men and women in uniform would not impose a significant financial burden.

As the son of an Air Force officer, the father of a Marine, and a Marine combat veteran myself, I understand the sacrifices that our service members and their families make every day. I have worked on these issues throughout my life, and they continue to be one of my top priorities as a member of the Senate Committee on Armed Services.

At a time when more than 200,000 of our men and women in uniform are deployed overseas, including combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, the airline industry's elimination of the \$100 fee would demonstrate its appreciation for their service to our nation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of my request.

Sincerely,



Jim Webb
United States Senator

JW:nb