



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

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CED-2-63

December 30, 1981

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Chairman, Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Public Works
and Transportation
House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Your letter of December 3, 1981, invited the General Accounting Office to comment on H.R. 5103, the Civil Aeronautics Board Sunset Act of 1981. In essence, H.R. 5103 provides for the orderly transfer of Civil Aeronautics Board (CAB) functions to other agencies.

In a report to the Chairman, CAB ("The Civil Aeronautics Board Should Expand Its Sunset Planning," CED 80-46, January 4, 1980) we concluded that as the Airline Deregulation Act's sunset provisions became effective some important Board functions would cease and some consumer protections would be lost unless legislative provisions were made for transferring these functions to other agencies. Accordingly, we recommended that the Board review all statutes it administers to determine those not addressed in the Airline Deregulation Act and submit to the Congress its legislative proposal for transferring these responsibilities along with the implementing regulations. We also recommended that the Board review existing tariff provisions to identify those which should be continued, incorporate them in Board regulations, and consider proposing that responsibility for enforcing these regulations be transferred to other agencies.

The provisions of H.R. 5103 are consistent with our previous recommendations concerning the transfer of CAB functions to other agencies. Therefore, we have no comments or suggestions to offer on the proposed legislation.

Sincerely yours,

Charles A. Bowser

Comptroller General
of the United States