

May 8, 2008

Robert “Bobby” Sturgell,  
FAA Acting Administrator  
800 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20592

Dear Mr. Sturgell,

It is our understanding that the United States FAA is currently conducting an IASA review of Thailand to determine if the Thai Civil Aviation Authority, the Thai Department of Civil Aviation (DCA), is able and willing to ensure Thai airlines meet international standards and recommended practices when flying in the United States.

We contend that the DCA does not. We have in our possession, and have provided to the FAA, documents, photographs and statements from western-trained pilots detailing inept and possibly corrupt practices by the Thai Department of Civil Aviation including:

- Permitting Thai-based airlines to operate without a safety program.
- Permitting Thai-based airlines to regularly bust ETOPS maximums.
- Permitting Thai-based airlines to exceed maximum pilot flight hour limitations.
- Permitting Thai-based airlines to fail to address serious maintenance issues (resulting in frequent in-air emergencies)
- Permitting Thai-based airlines to operate without Minimum Equipment Lists.
- Cronyism at the highest levels of the DCA.

It is our contention that by failing to provide appropriate oversight of Thai “budget” aviation, the DCA has shown the United States – indeed the world – that we can not trust the safety of our citizens or our soil to the Thai Department of Civil Aviation.

For these reasons, we encourage the FAA to declassify Thailand thereby restricting or outright preventing Thai-based airlines from operating in the United States. Furthermore, we encourage the EC to begin, or to expedite, their own investigation into the Thai Department of Civil Aviation.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Rind, United States  
Leah Scheuerman, United States  
David, Karen and Robin Woronoff, United States  
Louise Denny, United States  
Doris Geiselman, United States  
Richard and Margaret Collins, Wales, UK