

URGENT NOTICE

January 19, 2007

Dear SAF Member,

The House of Representatives last week passed H.R. 1, as part of the "100 Hours" agenda of top items on the new Congressional agenda. The Senate will take up this bill soon.

One part of that bill may be of great concern to the floral industry – SAF needs to know more details of how it might affect you and your business.

The sooner you can get an answer back to us as to potential impacts, the more effective we can be. We need this information by early next week.

Background:

H.R. 1 aims to put into law many of the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. We believe that one provision of that bill may present problems for our industry – but we need know if it does and, if so, more details on the problems it would present.

The provision about which we are concerned would require 100% cargo inspection for cargo carried on any passenger airline – either domestic or international. In other words, if you ship flowers domestically by air, every box would have to be opened and physically inspected to make sure no explosives etc. are contained. The same may be true for cargo shipped internationally, although the bill's language is not completely clear on that point. This provision would be a major increase from current procedure, which calls for only a percentage of cargo shipped to be inspected.

This inspection has nothing to do with pests or diseases – it would be a Transportation Security Administration (TSA) inspection, just as passenger baggage is now inspected. However, volume and size of cargo shipments make 100% inspection nearly impossible, according to the Air Transport Association and even according to TSA, who believe safe alternatives are available.

The Air Cargo Security Coalition, a group of representatives of airlines, industrial transporters, customs brokers, and other interested industry groups, has asked SAF to join. WE NEED TO KNOW HOW THIS ISSUE WOULD IMPACT THE FLORAL INDUSTRY.

Please email us as much information as you are willing to share. We will aggregate answers and keep individual company information confidential. If you have questions, please call Jeanne Ramsay or Lin Schmale at 703-836-8700, or email lschmale@safnow.org or jramsay@safnow.org