

I BELIEVE THAT THE FAA AGE 60 RULE SHOULD BE MODIFIED TO ALLOW QUALIFIED UNITED STATES AIRLINE PILOTS TO FLY PAST AGE 60, FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

1. THE GOVERNMENTS OF ALMOST ALL ADVANCED AVIATION COMMUNITY NATIONS OF THE WORLD HAVE RAISED THEIR AIRLINE PILOT'S AGE ABOVE THAT OF 60, MOST TO AGE 65, SEVERAL YEARS AGO.

2. JAPAN'S JCAB, CONSIDERED TO BE MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN OUR FAA, RAISED ITS AIRLINE PILOT AGE TO THAT OF 63 SEVERAL YEARS AGO, AND HAS HAD NO PROBLEMS WITH ITS OVER-60 PILOTS. THEY WILL PROBABLY RAISE THEIR AIRLINE PILOT AGE TO 65 SHORTLY.

3. SOME NATIONS, SUCH AS AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND, HAVE NO AIRLINE PILOT UPPER AGE LIMIT - PILOTS JUST PASS THEIR FLIGHT PHYSICALS AND THEIR FLIGHT CHECKS.

4. NO SCIENTIFIC MEDICAL BASIS EXISTS FOR GENERALLY LIMITING UNITED STATES AIRLINE PILOT CAREERS TO THE AGE OF 60, EITHER NOW, OR IN THE PAST AT THE TIME THE AGE 60 RULE WAS DICTATED BY THE THEN FAA ADMINISTRATOR ELWOOD P. QUASADA OVER 40 YEARS AGO.

5. THE FAA, ITSELF, WANTED TO ELIMINATE THE AGE 60 RULE SEVERAL YEARS AGO. DAVID HINSON, THE THEN FAA ADMINISTRATOR WHO WANTED TO DO IT, WAS ORDERED NOT TO CHANGE THE RULE BY THE THEN TRANSPORTATION SECRETARY, WHO WAS TOLD BY THE THEN WHITE HOUSE STAFF TO LEAVE THE RULE STAND, BECAUSE OF POLITICAL PRESSURE EXERCISED AGAINST CHANGING THE AGE 60 RULE BY THE AIR LINE PILOTS ASSN (ALPA) AND THE ALLIED PILOTS ASSN (APA).