

Once again the FAA and other associated government agencies are trying to fix something that isn't broken! The safety record of airtour/sightseeing/charitable flight operators, and other similar groups is excellent overall.. If there is a problem, it seems to be primarily with helicopter operators, most specifically those operating in Hawaii. The FAA should concentrate on investigating and fixing that specific problem rather than enacting legislation that will kill this entire industry. To require that these operators comply with FAR Part 135 regulations with respect to pilot qualifications and aircraft airworthiness standards is unrealistic at best and in many cases absurd. Most of these aircraft are maintained by their owners to very high standards, and are flown by their owner /operators by pilots with vastly more experience than a low time (but FAA certified) FAR 135 charter pilot.

By the FAA's own admission, these new regulations would put over 700 small aviation operators out of business. This would cost thousands of jobs at a time when America's economy is already floundering in a sea of unemployment. America's aviation industry has taken more than its share of "hits" since 9/11. Why is the FAA, whose stated purpose is to promote aviation, attempting to enact legislation that will kill or cripple this valuable segment of it, all because of a safety issue that is almost non-existent? If these aircraft were falling out of the sky on a daily basis, taking scores of unsuspecting passengers to an untimely death, then there would be cause for concern. This is not the case! This NPRM is a huge knee jerk reaction that will not enhance safety in any measurable way. It will only damage the industry. This legislation should be scrapped!!