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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

202-452-1805

Maureen Waddell

2004 AUG 13 A 8:57

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August 3, 2004 8:17 PM

Administrator Marion Blakey
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room Plaza 401400 Seventh Street, SW.,
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Subject: Docket Number: FAA-2004-18596 - 363

Dear Administrator Blakey:

I urge you to finalize the proposed rule to permit the use of certain portable oxygen concentrator devices on aircraft.

I, for example only travel on cruises these days and never fly as I cannot do so without uncertainty regarding the airline's oxygen, its cost and availability. I was unable to go to my sister when she was dying more than 1400 miles from me nor to attend her funeral last month because of this issue. Please help. I am not the only one.

Over one million Americans have medical conditions that require the use of supplemental oxygen to engage in activities of daily living. With appropriate supplemental oxygen, patients can lead full, productive lives. Many patients enjoy all the travel and leisure activities - except airline travel.

This proposed rule is a step in the right direction to help passengers that require supplemental oxygen travel easier. However the proposed rule should be strengthened by having the FAA require all airlines to permit the use of FAA-approved portable oxygen concentrators. Please ensure the final rule requires FAA-approved portable oxygen concentrators be allowed on board all civilian air travel.

Sincerely,

Maureen Waddell