

Media Statement  
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For immediate release

## FAIRER AIRPORT CHARGES FOR PASSENGERS A STEP CLOSER

A win for airline passengers this week as the government's improvements to airport regulation got a step closer to law.

Proposed law changes to significantly improve the strength of airport regulation were recommended in Parliament on Wednesday by the Transport and Infrastructure Select Committee in its report on the Commerce Amendment Bill.

The Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand (BARNZ) says the Bill increases regulatory pressure on airports to charge fairly by introducing a truncated inquiry process for the Commerce Commission and a more direct process for the Minister of Commerce to tighten airport regulatory settings.

"This is an important step towards fairer airport charges in the longer-term," BARNZ Executive Director Justin Tighe-Umbers says. "Airport boards are aware that tighter regulation will be a much more likely prospect should they continue to target excessive profits.

"Over time our hope is that this flows through to the pocket of the travelling public through lower airport charges on air tickets. The select committee and Minister Kris Faafoi have clearly recognised the need for a more credible regulatory threat on airports, and we welcome this important step."

BARNZ urges the government to progress the Bill through the remaining stages as quickly as possible so consumers can start to benefit.

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### About BARNZ

The Board of Airlines Representatives of New Zealand Inc., is the trusted voice of the airline industry in New Zealand. We represent 29 airlines that fly to New Zealand, and work closely with the Government, regulators, businesses and local communities to create an environment that fosters continued, sustainable growth for airlines in NZ. For more information, please visit [www.barnz.org.nz](http://www.barnz.org.nz)