

The AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of  
IMMUNOLOGISTS



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October 4, 2018

The Honorable Elaine L. Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

ATTN: Blane A. Workie, Assistant General Counsel for Aviation Enforcement  
Proceedings

Re: Submission in *NABR v. United Airlines et al.* Docket No. DOT-OST-2018-0124

Dear Madam Secretary:

The American Association of Immunologists (AAI) urges the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) to consider fully the above-referenced complaint alleging that various airlines are refusing to transport animals for biomedical research, while transporting them for other purposes.

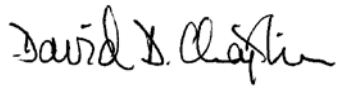
AAI, which was established in 1913, is the nation's largest professional society of research scientists and physicians who are dedicated to understanding the immune system through basic and translational research. Largely through funding from the National Institutes of Health, our members work on critically important areas of biomedical research, including expanding our understanding of the immunological basis of cancer and developing immunotherapies; discovering new defenses against re-emerging and drug-resistant bacterial infections; developing effective methods, including vaccines, to prevent infectious diseases and protect against agents of bioterrorism; regulating debilitating autoimmune diseases; and developing treatments to prevent the rejection of transplanted organs and bone marrow.

Much of the research that our members conduct seeks to prevent, treat, or cure disease. The use of animal models is often necessary to understand biological processes of both humans and animals and to determine the safety and efficacy of new and promising treatments. In fact, the use of such models is required by federal regulatory agencies before new drugs or therapies can be given to human patients.

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October 4, 2018  
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AAI is deeply concerned about NABR's allegation that many airlines are refusing to transport animals for biomedical research. We urge the DOT to investigate this complaint and to consider carefully the comments filed by organizations, like AAI, that are dedicated to advancing urgently needed biomedical research.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David D. Chaplin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D".

David D. Chaplin, M.D., Ph.D.  
Chair, AAI Committee on Public Affairs