

Health/Handicapped

August 16, 1978

Mr. Lionel Alford, President
The Wichita Boeing Company
3801 S. Oliver
Wichita, Kansas 67210

Dear Mr. Alford:

In recent weeks, I've heard reports about the development of the Boeing 767, your new domestic flight carrier. Because of my interest in handicapped persons, it occurred to me that it might be possible to select a barrier-free design to provide for accessibility to disabled persons.

There are literally millions of Americans with various physical disabilities who restrict their travel on conventional aircraft because of design barriers. Today, disabled persons are becoming increasingly mobile, in large part because of Federal laws which give emphasis to hiring the handicapped. As more handicapped persons enter the job market, I expect the demand for accessible facilities to increase.

It seems to me that answering the travel needs of the handicapped would tap a sizeable number of potential customers who, because of unaccessible vehicles, now find air travel very difficult. If the 767 could be designed to accommodate the handicapped, it would mean that millions of Americans might be introduced to air travel for the first time.

I wanted to indicate to you my interest in travel opportunities for the handicapped, and to suggest the 767 as a possible vehicle with which to address some of the problems in this area.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

BD:MWR