

While well-intentioned, this proposal has serious consequences for a number of small businesses, and will effectively destroy the livelihood of those business owners. In the absence of an economic impact study, it is difficult to determine the overall impact, other than to note that it will affect an economic sector already suffering from Post 9-11 paranoia and (especially) from over-regulation.

It is difficult to believe that prospective passengers expect Part 135 standards when riding in the seat of an open-cockpit biplane. Yet these small operators are being swept under the same regulatory umbrella as high-volume commercial operations. Given that the average airline passenger considers even a Regional Jet to be a high-risk ride, it is reasonable to assume that ordinary air tour passengers are well aware that these operations cannot be expected to operate under Part 135.

I respectfully submit that if this proposed rulemaking is adopted, that at the very least it have some (fairly high) minimum passenger volume before the regulations apply.