



## Phones on Airplanes

A few weeks back the FAA sensibly changed their policy to [allow for personal electronic devices](#) to be used in all phases of flight. This change had long been petitioned for by travelers and consumer groups and thankfully the FAA reversed its prior opposition.

Very recently the FCC has advised that it is considering allowing travelers to use their mobile phones on planes. This is in contrast to prior rulings citing mobile phones as potential threats to onboard avionics. Under discussion is allowing all mobile phones (and any devices using mobile technology for communication) to text, connect to the internet, or place calls after the plane reaches 10,000 feet. Decision is expected on December 12 in time for the Christmas holidays.

Needless to say the prospect of having phone calls on flights has met with strong emotion. In a recent [poll by HuffPost and YouGov](#) 49% of respondents are against allowing phone calls on board while 63% are in favor of texting during flights.

As a result to general opposition to the proposal Senator Lamar Alexander (R-Tennessee) is proposing [legislation](#) to block any action by the FCC to allow phone calls on airlines. No bill has been submitted at this time.

Additionally, there is a [petition](#) on the White House webpage to advise the FCC and FAA to not allow for calls on board. As of this writing nearly 96,000 people have signed onto it.

It is our opinion that the FCC will grant authority to airlines to, at their discretion, allow for onboard use of mobile phones. Presently, the following airlines have expressed their firm opposition to allowing phone calls on board: Delta, SouthWest, and Virgin America. American, JetBlue, and United have stated that they will review regulations when they come out but will base their response depending upon from client feedback.

## What you can do:

The FCC is soliciting comments by contacting 888-225-5322 (1-888-CALLFCC) regarding the Proposal to Expand Consumer Access to In flight Mobile Services. Best to leave comments before the December 12 meeting.

If we are correct that the FCC will grant authority to the airlines to allow for calls on board, then we advise sharing your thoughts with all carriers. We highly recommend posting messages on their Facebook and Twitter pages. It is very clear that that they are listening closely on this matter.

Likewise, tell us what you think: "Should calls be allowed during flight or not?". Please post your comments on [Casto's Facebook page](#).

### **We Want Your Feedback!**

Please click [here](#) to launch the brief Casto Travel Best Practices survey.