



To: Editor, Forbes Magazine
February 27, 2009

Your Feb. 16, 2009, article, “America’s Rip-Off Airports” by Jon Bruner and Zack O’Malley Greenburg, totally missed the mark in blaming airports for high air fares. In fact, air fares are not determined by airports, but rather airlines.

More than 30 years ago, Congress passed legislation deregulating domestic airline passenger service. Since then, airlines have the ability to set fares without government intervention, based on competition in the market and the need to cover costs and hopefully make a profit.

Airport costs actually make up only 4.3% of airline operating expenses. Further, with airlines cutting flights and looking to lower expenses, many airports have reduced their fees or offered marketing incentives to help retain air service, which is critical for the economic welfare of communities throughout the United States.

The number one focus for airports is to ensure that air travel is safe and secure. But providing price and service competition, as well as working for a more pleasant passenger travel experience by providing a wide range of facilities and services, is a close second..

Your article does many communities and air travelers a great disservice by incorrectly branding many airports as “rip offs”. In fact you are potentially weakening the airport’s chances of maintaining critical air service and competition among airlines, which ultimately means lower fares.

Sincerely,

Greg Principato
President
Airports Council International-North America

- [Link to Forbes article](#)