AMENDMENT TO H.R. 4
OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

At the end of title IV, insert the following:

SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF CERTAIN FLIGHTS BY STAGE 2 AIRPLANES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 47534 of title 49, United States Code, not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall initiate a pilot program to permit the operator of a Stage 2 airplane to operate that airplane in revenue and nonrevenue service into medium hub airports or nonhub airports if—

(1) the airport—

(A) is certified under part 139 of 14, Code of Federal Regulations;

(B) has a runway that—

(i) is longer than 8,000 feet and not less than 200 feet wide; and

(ii) is load bearing with a pavement classification number of not less than 38;

(C) has a maintenance facility with a maintenance certificate issued under part 145 of such title; and
(D) certifies annually to the Administrator that the airport intends to continue participating in the pilot program;

(2) the operator of the Stage 2 airplane operates not more than 10 flights per month using that airplane; and

(3) revenue flights will be limited to flights transporting specific and necessary equipment to maintain or improve the vital industry of small rural communities.

(b) TERMINATION.—The regulations required by subsection (a) shall terminate on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 10 years after the date of the enactment of the Act; or

(2) the date on which the Administrator determines that no Stage 2 airplane remain in service.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MEDIUM HUB AIRPORT; NONHUB AIRPORT.—The terms “medium hub airport” and “nonhub airport” have the meanings given those terms in section 40102 of the title 49, United States Code.

(2) STAGE 2 AIRPLANE.—The term “Stage 2 airplane” has the meaning given that term in section 91.851 of title 14, Code of Federal Regulations (as
in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act).