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## Senior Pilots Take Aim At Oberstar

Hitting Turbulence. You might think that when the president last week signed a law extending the mandatory retirement age for commercial pilots to age 65 that the move would put an end to the lobbying campaign of the **Senior Pilots Coalition**.

You'd be dead wrong.

The group represents pilots like Lew Tetlow, who at age 60 was forced to retire but has not yet hit 65. They want their jobs back — and their seniority. They say this bill does nothing to change that and, even worse, takes away their right to sue for discrimination. They're taking on House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-Minn.) and the pilots' union, the **Air Line Pilots Association**.

“This is one of the most egregious pieces of legislation that's ever come through the U.S. Congress,” said Tetlow, 60, a former pilot for US Airways. “It goes further than it just doesn't help, it says that Chairman Oberstar says I don't have the right to go to court.”

The senior pilots' lobbyist, **Phil Theodosiou**, said the group will decide by early this week whether to mount a constitutional challenge to the law.

Jim Berard, an Oberstar spokesman on the committee, called the situation unfortunate. “In order to get this bill done, we needed the airlines' support and the support of the airlines allies in Congress,” he said. “The airlines were necessarily worried that if we made this bill retroactive ... it would have created some legal problems and personnel problems for the airlines. The question facing Mr. Oberstar was do you help nobody or do you help those pilots who have not yet reached 60?”