



STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION

The National Songwriters Association, on behalf of its members, applauds Congressman Jim Cooper for introducing the RELIEF Act. This legislation will ensure that amendments passed to the "Lacey Act" in 2008 do not have unintended consequences on songwriters, musicians, antique dealers, instrument manufacturers or others whose instruments or products contain wood regulated by the Lacey Act. We also want to thank members of the Tennessee Congressional delegation and other members of Congress outside of Tennessee who are sponsors of this bill.

"The 2008 amendments to the Lacey Act would make songwriters traveling with guitars that may contain wood regulated by the Act subject to criminal penalties," said NSA Director Bart Herbison. "I assure you that songwriters are not aware of these regulations and should not be subject to unnecessary compliance burdens. The RELIEF Act will guarantee the laws are implemented fairly. Songwriters and musicians traveling through airports are worried about whether they are going to get their guitar in the overhead bin... not whether the wood in the instrument poses a criminal threat! We want to thank Congressman Cooper for understanding how this might impact songwriters and musicians and introducing the RELIEF Act."

NOTE: The NATIONAL SONGWRITERS ASSOCIATION INCLUDES:

The California Songwriters Association

The Nashville Songwriters Association International

The Texas Songwriters Association

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