

The *New York Times*, in a follow up story dated August 14, 2009, explained that legislation requiring airlines to return passengers to the gate after a three-hour tarmac delay had been considered but not passed by Congress following a 1999 blizzard in Detroit that kept multiple planes on the ground, trapping passengers for seven hours. This article continued that the “no more than three-hour delay” legislation had been reintroduced in 2006 after snow and ice at Kennedy International Airport in New York left large numbers of planes stalled and passengers confined for up to 11 hours, and was now—in August 2009—being recommended for bi-partisan reconsideration by Senators Boxer (D-CA) and Snowe (R-ME). This newspaper article concluded by explaining that the Air Transport Association, which represents the major air carriers in Washington, DC, strongly opposed any hard and fast timeline for returning to the gate, saying it could have unintended consequences for the passengers, including more cancellations and further delays.