

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Harry Mitchell hailed plans by the House Committee on Science and Technology to investigate reports that NASA withheld results from a national survey of pilots that “found that safety problems like near collisions and runway interference occur far more frequently than previously recognized” due to fears they “would upset air travelers and hurt airline profits.” [Source: [Associated Press](#) , Oct. 22, 2007]

Mitchell is a member of the House Committee on Science and Technology, as well as a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure’s Subcommittee on Aviation.

[According to the Associated Press](#) , “NASA gathered the information under an \$8.5 million federal safety project, through telephone interviews with roughly 24,000 commercial and general aviation pilots over nearly four years. Since shutting down the project more than one year ago, the space agency has refused to divulge its survey data publicly.” [Source: [Associated Press](#) , Oct. 22, 2007]

“This is unacceptable,” Mitchell said. “When it comes to airline travel, safety must always be our top priority. I look forward to next week’s hearing, where I expect we will work in a bipartisan manner to find out what went wrong and how we can prevent this from happening again.”

The House Science and Technology Committee will examine the issue on Tuesday, October 30.