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FOR THE TOBACCO INSTITUTE

PROGRAM The Consumer's View

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NBC Network

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SUBJECT Full Text

BESS MYERSON: Hell, I'm Bess Myerson with the "Consumer's View."

If you're an air traveler who enjoys flying through the clouds but resent having also to fly through the blue clouds of cigarette smoke inside the cabin, there's some good news to report today.

The organization called ASH -- Action on Smoking and Health -- acting on consumers complaints that too few airline seats were set aside for nonsmokers, has won some concessions from Eastern Airlines which were formalized in an agreement submitted to the Civil Aeronautics Board.

Under the agreement, the airline will reserve at least sixty-five percent of its seats on virtually all flights for non-smokers, and will also expand the no smoking section as necessary to accommodate additional nonsmoking passengers.

In addition, it will provide each passenger with a written statement of his or her rights to a seat in a nonsmoking area.

The agreement also states that the airline will take forceful action against passengers smoking in the no smoking section. But, as ASH reminds consumers, that's only one company. Others may follow voluntarily or require additional lawsuits to make them comply.

In the meantime, nonsmokers should not only be aware that they have a right under federal law to a seat in the no smoking

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section, but if the line has to expand that section to protect your rights, insist upon it.

On the NBC Radio Network, this is Bess Myerson.

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