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Dear Editor:

Scaring people about flying aboard non-airline, or "general aviation" airplanes might help sell newspapers, but the *Examiner's* coverage of a recent study on the issue ("Don't Fear the Jumbo Jet," April 12) did readers a disservice in misrepresenting the true safety record for general aviation airplanes, including those used for business purposes.

For instance, the lead of the story referenced the safety record for "private airplanes," and correctly cited the fact that business aircraft are included in that category. But the article inappropriately lumped in the safety record for business aviation with that for a variety of other flying craft, including hot-air balloons and gliders, and planes that fly very rigorous missions, including emergency medical services and firefighting.

Fact: The latter types of flights are not those most people will ever take, and are not typically considered a means of routine, reliable transport. It is inappropriate to group business aviation flights with those conducted by hot air balloons, gliders, medical and firefighting when focusing on safety information, as your article did.

Fact: Business aviation has for years had a comparable safety record to that held by the commercial airlines. Flights aboard business aviation aircraft are safe, and it's unfortunate your readers were led to believe otherwise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ed Bolen", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Ed Bolen  
President and CEO  
National Business Aviation Association