



FedEx CEO, a Pilot board member, backs Haslam

By: Michael Collins – April 25, 2013

Fred Smith, the CEO of FedEx and a board member of Pilot Flying J, on Thursday gave a vote of confidence to Pilot CEO Jimmy Haslam.

Interviewed following an appearance at the Cato Institute, in Washington, D.C., Smith was asked if he still had confidence in Haslam. "Of course," he said. "I think Mr. Haslam and his father are first-class men."

Pilot saw its reputation take a hit last week when federal agents raided its Knoxville facilities. The government subsequently unsealed an affidavit which alleged that employees, with Haslam's knowledge, had engaged in a scheme to defraud trucking companies.

Haslam said he has done nothing wrong, and earlier this week announced that several members of the company's diesel fuel sales team had been placed on indefinite leave. He also said Pilot's board had identified a person with a national reputation and Justice Department experience to conduct an independent investigation.

On Thursday, Smith said that person is "a very capable individual who has a long track record of looking into things without any varnish on it."