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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20535



Homeland
Security

July 16, 2007

The Honorable John L. Mica
Subcommittee on Aviation
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Mica:

Thank you for your June 7, 2007 letter regarding implementation of the Screening Passengers by Observation Technique (SPOT) Program in Screening Partnership Program (SPP) airports, particularly Kansas City International Airport. I appreciate this opportunity to respond to your concerns related to this important Department of Homeland Security (DHS) program.

The Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) SPOT Program enables an additional layer of security, as it adds an element of unpredictability to the security screening process. Using risk to guide decisions and maximizing resources by directing them where they are needed most allows TSA to deliver the best security possible. To that end, we have just completed rollout of the SPOT Program at the Nation's highest risk airports, with San Francisco International Airport (SFO), an SPP airport, having completed SPOT Program training in February 2007. This deployment schedule maximizes security through the best use of our resources.

Since Kansas City International Airport is not one of the 40 highest threat airports, it was not included in the initial SPOT Program deployment. TSA plans to expand the program as quickly and effectively as possible to other airports, including SPP airports. Furthermore, TSA has a lead role in working with DHS's transportation security stakeholders to reduce risk, and implementing the SPOT Program is an important stage in that process. Also of note, TSA provides behavior awareness training to all Transportation Security Officers and staff at SPP airports, and an Aviation Industry Watch is being developed for all airline and airport employees.

Thank you for sharing your interest and concerns in the implementation of the SPOT Program. If you would like further information or assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 447-5850.

Sincerely,

Michael P. Jackson

Handwritten notes:
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