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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-2308

May 11, 2016

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
H-305, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
House Appropriations Subcommittee on
Homeland Security
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard,

I am writing to urge you to include a shift of \$34 million from within the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) budget to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) in the House's Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Appropriations bill to help mitigate travel delays in airport security lines across the United States. On May 5th, I was pleased to see both the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security approve a similar request.

Recently, there has been a surge in long airport security lines all across the country. In response, the TSA officially attributed this issue to insufficient security staffing at airports, which I find unacceptable. At Minneapolis-St Paul Airport (MSP) in my home state of Minnesota, there has been a significant increase in wait times where passengers have stood up to 60 minutes in line. One of MSP's highest commitments is to provide their travelers with short, proficient security lines and due to the TSA's lack of staffing, they are unable to fulfill this promise.

Considering how vital our nation's aviation industry is to our economy, it is essential that airports operate at maximum efficiency. It is my understanding that a \$34 million shift to the TSA will allow the agency to hire and train an additional 800 transportation security officers and provide additional funding for overtime for current officers. In addition, it will hold the TSA accountable for the increase in wait times and put pressure on them to quickly address this pertinent issue. Therefore, I respectfully urge your Subcommittee to join with your Senate counterparts in approving this request, so our nation's airline passengers can return to traveling safely and efficiently in a timely manner.

Thank you for your time and attention to this crucial matter. I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Nolan
Member of Congress

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