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**Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member**  
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### **King Statement on Passage of Provision to Add Guantanamo Detainees to No Fly List**

*“Forcing Americans to sit next to terrorists on commercial airliners would be outrageous.”*

**Washington, D.C. (Thursday, June 4, 2009)**—U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement today after House passage of a provision to amend H.R. 2200, the Transportation Security Administration Authorization Act. The amendment, offered by King and Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN) during floor consideration of the legislation, passed by a vote of 412-12 and requires that Guantanamo detainees be placed on the No Fly List, unless the President certifies in writing that a detainee poses no threat.

“With the overwhelming passage of this amendment, I am encouraged that Democrats are beginning to see the serious homeland security implications of President Obama’s decision to close Guantanamo and possibly release certain detainees into the United States,” King said. “This vote is a clear statement of the sense of Congress; the detainees at Guantanamo are dangerous, have fought U.S. troops and have been captured on the battlefield of a war that began when al Qaeda used commercial airliners to kill thousands of innocent Americans. More recently, an al Qaeda plot to take down airliners with liquid explosives proved that commercial airliners continue to be a target of terrorists.”

“President Obama has yet to give the American people an answer to the question of whether he will release Guantanamo detainees into the United States. Given the fact that at least 74 already-released Guantanamo detainees have returned to the fight against the United States, placing Guantanamo detainees on the ‘No Fly List’ is a necessary and reasonable action for Congress to take. Forcing Americans to sit next to terrorists on commercial airliners would be outrageous.”

NOTE: At the Committee on Homeland Security markup of this legislation, Rep. Mark Souder (R-IN) offered an amendment to place Guantanamo detainees on the No Fly List. However, a Democratic amendment weakened the Republican provision to give the President the final say as to whether or not Guantanamo detainees should be placed on the List.

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