



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

**John L. Mica**  
**Chairman**

**Nick J. Rahall, III**  
**Ranking Member**

James W. Coon II, Chief of Staff

June 5, 2012

James H. Zoia, Democrat Chief of Staff

The Honorable Darrell Issa  
2157 RHOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Issa:

I want to thank you for the cooperative work between the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure in conducting joint oversight of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Our recent joint committee hearings and reports have successfully highlighted many of the TSA's inefficient and ineffective programs and provided significant recommendations for the improvement of transportation security. As you know, the TSA's efforts to prevent Congressional oversight of its operations continue to show a complete disregard for the need to protect the taxpayers' investment, and also threaten the safety of the traveling public.

Just last Friday, June 1, 2012, I was especially disturbed to learn that there appeared to have been a serious security lapse at the airport in Fort Myers, Florida and I made inquiries of the TSA. Late in the day, having received no response from the TSA, it became apparent that the Agency was not being forthcoming with information. In fact, the TSA did not report the situation until Friday evening when it released a very cryptic statement only after I issued a press release on the potential of another TSA meltdown.

Even more disturbing, this security lapse occurred nearly one year ago and no disciplinary action had been proposed until last week. I now question why it took so long and whether there was an attempt by the TSA to sweep this meltdown under the rug. Given that we now know as many as 43 TSA employees are involved, including top level management staff at Fort Myers, I question the length of the internal investigation and appropriateness of the TSA's response. Even today, it remains unclear whether the TSA has provided a full reporting of the situation, which only leads to further distrust and erosion of public confidence in the Agency.

The Honorable Darrell Issa

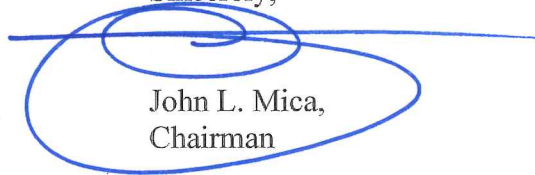
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As a senior member of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform and Chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I respectfully ask your assistance in requesting the TSA to provide all internal communications related to the recent security lapse at the Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers and potential efforts by the TSA to sweep it under the rug. If necessary, I will work with you to subpoena all records related to the TSA's failure to follow screening protocols at Fort Myers.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the traveling public and make certain that taxpayer dollars are utilized in the most efficient and effective manner. If you or your staff have any questions or need further information, please contact me or Sean McMaster of the Committee staff at 202-226-8048.

Sincerely,



John L. Mica,  
Chairman