

JUL 18 2012

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
601 South 12th Street  
Arlington, VA 20598



Transportation  
Security  
Administration

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security  
U.S. House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Thompson:

Thank you for your letter of June 25, 2012, co-signed by Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, regarding the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) June 20, 2012, posting on the Federal Business Opportunities Web site, titled "Insider Threat Software." As an initial point of clarification, this posting was not a solicitation for proposals; rather it was a "sources sought" notification—an informal market research technique, commonly employed prior to a formal acquisition. The information obtained from this notification will assist TSA in the possible procurement of this software in the future.

The software that TSA is seeking further information about would have the ability to monitor specific employee communications on government equipment to provide forensic support to investigations through effective evidence collection when a specific user is identified as a potential threat to TSA's mission of combating and preventing terrorism. Many of these communication paths can currently be monitored as part of an internal investigation; however, this software will make these manual efforts more effective and standardized.

TSA is committed to the guidance provided in the June 20, 2012, memorandum issued by the United States Office of Special Counsel (OSC) in *Memorandum for Executive Departments and Agencies Regarding Agency Monitoring Policies and Confidential Whistleblowers Disclosure to the Office or Special Counsel and to Inspectors General*. If acquired, the software would be deployed to a user's computer only when there is a predicate that suggests the user poses a threat. TSA's proposed use of this software is in compliance with the June 20, 2012, OSC memorandum and guidance.

Thank you once again for your continued support of the mission of TSA in safeguarding the Nation's transportation systems from the threat of terrorism. An identical response has been sent to Congresswoman Jackson Lee. If I may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me personally or the Office of Legislative Affairs, at (571) 227-2717.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John S. Pistole".

John S. Pistole  
Administrator