



May 22, 2009

The Honorable John Mica
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mica:



We are writing to express our support for your proposed amendment to H.R. 2200, The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Authorization Act, which would address the issuance of regulations and security directives using emergency procedures. This amendment addresses a long-standing issue with the manner in which the TSA has exercised broad regulatory discretion in the application of Security Directives (SD) that are not subject to the Administrative Procedures Act (APA).



The General Aviation community strongly supports a risk-based, threat vulnerability approach to securing our national transportation system. However, we have seen the TSA repeatedly use SDs to vastly expand existing requirements without consideration of the implementation challenges, operational impacts and economic burdens such mandates impose on the aviation industry. Our most recent experience involves the expansion of security credentialing requirements to tens-of-thousands of pilots and employees at airports and aviation manufacturers without due consideration and process under the APA.



We believe your amendment would provide the TSA the flexibility to tactically respond to any imminent threats while being directed to rely on the APA for the strategic introduction of new security requirements. Your amendment properly balances risk mitigation and necessary tactical response with potential industry impacts and appropriate public review. We thank you and your cosponsors for this important initiative.



Sincerely,

Greg Principato, President
Airports Council International – North America

Craig Fuller, President
Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association

Douglas Macnair, Vice President Government
Affairs
Experimental Aircraft Association

Pete Bunce, President and CEO
General Aviation Manufacturers Association

Jim Coyne, President
National Air Transportation Association

Ed Bolen, President
National Business Aviation Association