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ARKANSAS

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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 24, 2009

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

Since the inception of the Department of Homeland Security, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has dutifully carried out its mission of protecting our nation's transportation systems to ensure freedom of movement for people and commerce. While I share your commitment to improving safety and security within our aviation system, I wish to express my concern with the direction taken by the TSA in developing the proposed rule for general aviation known as the Large Aircraft Security Program (LASP). I am concerned that the proposed rule as written could have a minimal impact on aviation security, prove overly burdensome to general aviation, and result in real economic harm by hampering business operations and commerce.

The TSA published a new proposed rule known as the Large Aircraft Security Program (Docket Number TSA-2008-0021) on October 30, 2008, with a comment period that originally expired on December 29, 2008. TSA extended the comment period to allow for additional comment through February 27, 2009. It is my understanding that the proposed rule is still under consideration, and the TSA is currently reviewing thousands of public comments received on the proposed rule. I ask that you give great consideration to these comments and listen closely to those who operate smaller private aircraft, especially those at small and rural airports, as these are inherently different than large commercial facilities.

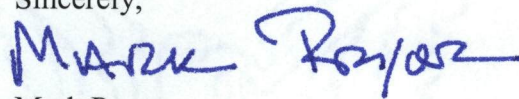
Like you, in recent weeks I have heard from numerous airplane owners, airplane pilots, airports, aviation service providers, businesses, airplane manufacturers, and other members of the general aviation community in my state and across the country who are very concerned about the potential negative impact this rule could have on their aviation operations. Many of the concerns note that implementing the rule as proposed would be incredibly costly to the industry and government, and could have many unintended consequences that could harm commerce and the economy. While I understand and appreciate that the TSA would like to see smaller aircraft operations employ a higher level of security, I share the view that new regulations should be reasonable and not cause an undue burden to small aircraft operators.

It is my belief that general aviation sincerely shares your goals for increasing aviation security. I've learned a great deal about their commitment to aviation security and the personal security measures already in place. The TSA has already shown it is willing to work with persons

impacted by the proposed rule by its decision to extend the comment period, and I would like to ask that you continue to work with all aviation groups and aviation officials to develop a strategy for enhancing general aviation security and preventing terrorist attacks that is not overly intrusive and burdensome. Please know that as a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, as well as the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I am committed to working with you to ensure the TSA remains focused on its mission and continues to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our nation's transportation security system.

Thank you for your attention and consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "MARK Pryor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Mark Pryor

Cc: Acting TSA Administrator Gale Rossides