

**Congress of the United States**

**Washington, DC 20515**

July 28, 2006

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Committee on Appropriations  
B-307 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
Chairman  
House Committee on Appropriations  
H-218, Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Martin Sabo  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Obey  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen and Ranking Members,

As you begin your negotiations with the Senate on H.R. 5441, the FY07 Homeland Security Appropriations bill, we urge you to support the Leahy/Stevens provision in the Senate-passed bill. This provision clarifies changes to the implementation of the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) by providing the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the State Department with an extended deadline and specifying parameters for alternative travel documents.

As members of the Congressional Travel & Tourism Caucus, we would like the WHTI to be implemented in a rational manner to minimize the impact on one of the largest industries in the U.S. economy – the \$650 billion travel and tourism industry.

The Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 requires DHS and State to implement new rules requiring travelers entering or re-entering the U.S. from Canada, Mexico, or the Caribbean, including U.S. citizens, to present documents denoting both identity and citizenship by January 1, 2008.

The Leahy/Stevens provision would extend the WHTI deadline to a uniform implementation date of June 1, 2009 for sea and land travel. The provision also outlines how DHS and State should implement the PASS card system.

Again, we ask you to retain the Senate's WHTI language in the final conference report for the FY 2007 Homeland Security appropriations bill.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

  
Rep. Mark Foley

  
Rep. Sam Farr

  
Rep. Neil Abercrombie

  
Rep. Mary Bono

  
Rep. Lois Capps

  
Rep. William Delahunt


  
Rep. Mike Doyle

  
Rep. Bob Filner

  
Rep. Mike Honda

  
Rep. William Jefferson


  
Rep. Tom Lantos

  
Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton

  
Rep. Jim Oberstar

  
Rep. John Spratt

  
Rep. Susan Davis

  
Rep. Tom Allen