



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

John L. Mica
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515
June 4, 2012

Rick J. Rahall, III
Ranking Member

James W. Coon II, Chief of Staff

James H. Zoia, Democrat Chief of Staff

The Honorable John Pistole
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
701 South 12th Street, West Tower
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Pistole:

I am writing to express my great disappointment with the lack of transparency and failure to cooperate with Congress on the security meltdown at Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers.

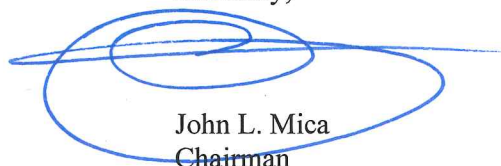
Last Friday, June 1, 2012, I learned that there appeared to have been a serious security lapse at the airport in Ft. Myers and made inquiries of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). Late in the day, having received no response from the TSA, it became apparent that the Agency was not being 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, as I learn additional details, such as the fact that the security lapse occurred nearly one year ago and that 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 the matter under the rug. Given that we now know as many as 43 TSA employees are involved, including top level management staff at Ft. Myers, I question the length of the internal investigation and appropriateness of 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.

It appears as if the TSA, rather than providing prompt and accurate reports to Congress, the media and the public, and addressing another clear lapse in security screening, wants the entire incident to just go away without any accountability. Once again, this is absolutely no way to run a security operation. Therefore, I request that the TSA immediately advise Congress about the lapse in security operations, its one-year investigation, and the disciplinary and administrative actions being taken in response to the situation

I appreciate your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John L. Mica
Chairman