

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 5, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The President  
The White House

Regarding: Addition of authorized departure points for travel to Cuba, including Tampa International Airport – Meeting Request

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing in my capacity as co-chair of the House Cuba Working Group (CWG), a bipartisan group of legislators dedicated to improving United States policy toward Cuba, to respectfully request an opportunity to meet with you, or the appropriate cabinet officer, to discuss the addition of U.S. exit/entry points for travel to Cuba, including Tampa International Airport (TIA), represented by our colleague Representative Kathy Castor.

In April of last year you took the important and welcome step of lifting travel restrictions on Cuban-American families wishing to visit relatives in Cuba. Following your removal of travel restrictions on Cuban-American families last year, the number of U.S. travelers to Cuba nearly tripled from 10,000 per month to nearly 30,000 per month. Your decision to ease travel restrictions means that we should do all we can to make travel to Cuba for families both more convenient and more affordable.

However, no new points of U.S. departure have been granted. The extremely limited number of U.S. exit/entry airports in effect penalizes families who do not live near one of the three airports already approved as departure points. In particular, the Tampa Bay area has one of the largest concentrations of Cuban-Americans in the United States, but Tampa is not an exit/entry point for travel to Cuba. Instead, it costs an additional \$400-500 for an individual in Tampa to travel to Miami in order to go to Cuba – in addition to the travel costs to Cuba.

An initial request was sent to the Administration over one year ago regarding TIA, but no action has been taken. I and other members of the CWG believe that it is time for the Administration to designate other U.S. exit/entry points for travel to Cuba, beginning with TIA. We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this matter with you as soon as possible regarding this request, which is of great personal and economic interest to many American citizens.

Sincerely,



Bill Delahunt