

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

July 14, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

As you are well aware, in February, you and Charles Rivkin, Assistant Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs at the State Department, signed an agreement to re-establish scheduled air service between the United States and Cuba. We write to make you aware of concerns regarding this decision.

We have grave concerns about the risk to America's security if the protocols and infrastructure at these airports in Cuba cannot be adequately reviewed. As it has been noted by the House Homeland Transportation Security Subcommittee, we still cannot verify if Cuba has the adequate body scanners and explosive detection systems in place. We additionally are unable to determine whether they have the technology to screen for fraudulent passports and identification, whether or how Cuban aviation workers are screened, and if United States Federal Air Marshals will be allowed to fly missions to Cuba on commercial flights. These questions must be answered in order to provide certainty to the American public that their security will not be jeopardized by these new flights.

As of June 22, 2016, we have been informed that the Transportation Security Administration will have no personnel permanently stationed in Cuba to oversee the resumption of commercial air service, nor has an agreement been reached with the Cuban government regarding Federal Air Marshal Service. This is of obvious concern.

After all, Cuba has been a safe haven for terrorists and was just removed from the list of state sponsors of terrorism about a year ago. We should not move forward with travel to this country until we are absolutely sure they have proper measures in place to protect the safety and security of Americans.

We strongly urge the U.S. Government to delay these plans to resume air service to Cuba until the security measures at these airports can be verified and the potential risks to our homeland security have been appropriately scrutinized.

Sincerely,



John Katko  
Chairman  
Transportation Security Subcommittee  
House Committee on Homeland Security



Richard Hudson  
Former Chairman  
Transportation Security Subcommittee  
House Committee on Homeland Security