



**One Hundred Fifteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515**

November 29, 2018

The Honorable David Pekoske  
Administrator  
Transportation Security Administration  
601 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street  
Arlington, VA 20598-6001

Dear Administrator Pekoske:

Last month, the “TSA Modernization Act” (referred to hereafter as “the Act”) was enacted as part of the “FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018” (Public Law 115-254). The Act contains significant reforms that will help improve and mature the Transportation Security Administration (TSA).

As you are aware, Section 1943 of the Act requires you to “establish an air cargo security division to carry out and engage with stakeholders regarding the implementation of air cargo security programs established by the Administration.” This provision was based on the “Air Cargo Security Improvement Act of 2018” (H.R. 4176), a bill I authored to enhance TSA’s air cargo security activities to better address current threats to air cargo. The establishment of a centralized, dedicated air cargo security division will help TSA maintain cargo expertise within its senior leadership, provide the cargo industry with a clear entry point for engagement, and improve air cargo security.

Given that air cargo flies internationally in significant volume, a new air cargo security division must be empowered to drive both domestic and international cargo policy but will need to work closely with an international affairs office, as authorized in section 1905 of the Act. As you know, the Act directs you to appoint at least one individual to report directly to you or your designated direct report to be responsible and accountable for “international strategy and operations, including agency efforts to work with international partners to secure the global transportation network.” As with the establishment of an air cargo security division, maintaining a centralized, dedicated international affairs office—as currently operates as TSA’s Office of Global Strategies—is key to accomplishing TSA’s mission. Threats emanating from overseas demand constant attention and long-term collaboration with international partners driven by an office dedicated to international strategy and operations.

Given the interrelated nature of the air cargo division and international affairs office, it is critical that you establish mechanisms to foster collaboration between and among these offices as well as

with other key TSA offices such as those responsible for “ensuring compliance with aviation security law” (section 1905) and overseeing TSA’s intelligence personnel.

As you work to implement these requirements and establish organizational responsibilities within TSA, and in accordance with Rule X cl. 3(g) and Rule XI of the United States House of Representatives, please provide answers to the following inquiries no later than December 13, 2018:

1. Will TSA’s air cargo security division be responsible for developing all air cargo security policy within TSA, including both domestic and international cargo policy? Please provide a description of the division’s responsibilities and explain how they will relate to the international affairs office.
2. To whom will the head of the air cargo security division report?
3. Please provide a description of the Office of Global Strategies’ responsibilities together with an explanation of what, if any, changes are expected. Will the international affairs office continue to maintain sole responsibility for all international strategy and operations? How will it be expected to adapt its engagement with international partners to ensure that the air cargo division can carry out the international aspects of its responsibilities?
4. To whom will personnel responsible for ensuring compliance with air cargo security law and policy report? How will such personnel—including personnel deployed overseas—collaborate with the air cargo security division and the international affairs office?
5. How will the air cargo security division and the international affairs office work with TSA’s intelligence personnel to share timely intelligence with relevant stakeholders?

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to continued communication as you work to implement the requirements of the Act. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Alison Northrop, Chief Director of Oversight, at 202-226-2616.

Sincerely,

  
BENNIE G. THOMPSON  
Ranking Member