



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

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

March 6, 2007

David Heysfeld, Chief of Staff
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

Senator Mitch McConnell
Republican Leader
United States Senate

Senator Jim DeMint
United States Senate

Dear Mitch and Jim:

This letter is to inform you that as House Republican Leader of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I have secured a commitment from more than 146 Members of the U.S. House to sustain a veto by President Bush of legislation that provides collective bargaining rights for Transportation Security Administration (TSA) personnel.

I share both President Bush's concern and that expressed by Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff that this action would impact vital national security operations and harm any administrator's ability to respond to changing terrorist threats.

Furthermore, while guised within legislation alleged to be recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, this proposal was never part of their recommendations. Having been one of the authors of the original TSA bill, I can assure you we purposely excluded collective bargaining for TSA screeners, however we did preserve their right to union membership. Because of the potential damage of this provision, I intend to use every legislative means available to sustain a Presidential Veto and ensure that we preserve a viable, flexible, and responsible TSA workforce.

Looking forward to working with you on this important matter,

I remain sincerely,

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member