



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

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

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David Heysfeld, Chief of Staff
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Dear Fellow Conferee:

I urge you to join me in declining to sign the conference report to H.R. 1, the so-called 9-11 bill. Unfortunately the conference committee has failed to appropriately address three crucial issues: Cargo screening, the creation of a new bureaucracy to administer transportation security grants, and failed to provide immunity for the traveling public. I encourage you to join me in withholding your support.

The conference adopted cargo screening provisions not recommended by the 9-11 Commission, and this is a real step backwards. The recently adopted SAFE Ports Act (P.L. 109-347) established a pilot program to test scanning systems at several ports. This pilot program is well underway and should be allowed to continue and to serve as a guideline for success and failure before we divert taxpayer dollars to mandates that are unrealistic and ineffective.

On the issue of grant distribution, we do not need to establish a new and costly bureaucracy to distribute transportation grants. The Department of Homeland Security has struggled with grant distribution while the Department of Transportation already has the experience and system in place today. Creating a new bureaucracy does not provide additional security. This issue remains unresolved.

The conference report also fails to include the critical "Imam" provision providing immunity for Americans who report suspicious activity on our transportation systems. The eyes and ears of private citizens are our last line of defense against terrorist attacks, and we must ensure that these citizens are protected from lawsuits for simply reporting what they observe.

Please join me in opposing the adoption of the so-called 9-11 Conference Report.

Sincerely,

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member
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