



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

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2007

James L. Oberstar
Chairman

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member

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

James W. Coon II, Republican Chief of Staff

President George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I urge you to be prepared to veto the conference report to H.R. 1, the so-called 9-11 bill, presently being concluded by Congressional negotiators.

Since September 11, 2001, I have been involved in the development of several legislative initiatives to prevent terrorist attacks, including the establishment of the Transportation Security Administration. However, I am deeply concerned with some of the provisions tentatively adopted by the conference.

The conference has adopted provisions related to cargo screening that were not recommendations of the 9-11 Commission. I fear that this provision alone will warrant your veto because it would divert precious and limited resources to unwisely create a system that would be ineffective and costly.

As you know, under provisions of the SAFE Ports Act (P.L. 109-347), a pilot program is currently testing the feasibility of cargo scanning systems at several ports. We should first examine the results of this program rather than divert taxpayer dollars because of an uninformed mandate.

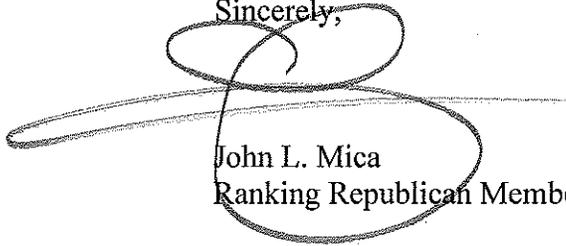
The conference is also considering the creation of a new bureaucracy to administer transportation security grants. The Department of Transportation already has the expertise and system in place to effectively manage these grants, and the Department of Homeland Security has a track record of poor grants management.

Additionally, the conference report does not contain the "Imam" provision providing immunity for vigilant Americans who report suspicious activity to authorities. We cannot allow our citizens to be deterred from reporting suspicious behavior by the threat of frivolous lawsuits.

Page 2
President George W. Bush
July 24, 2007

I urge you to veto a so-called 9-11 conference report that fails to properly address these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the left. The signature is positioned over the printed name and title of John L. Mica.

John L. Mica
Ranking Republican Member