

February 22, 2013

The Honorable John S. Pistole
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Administrator Pistole,

The general aviation community is troubled by the continued lack of public access to the general aviation portion of the Grand Junction Regional Airport in Grand Junction, Colorado. Security measures that were implemented nearly two years ago have had a devastating economic impact on the businesses and tenants that operate at GJT, and many have been forced to close or relocate to other airports in Western Colorado. A resolution and amendment to the GJT Airport Security Plan has been going back and forth between the Grand Junction Airport Board and the TSA Western Colorado Federal Security Director without resolve for some time.


On January 23, 2013 AOPA met with TSA Headquarters staff from the Office of Security Policy and Industry Engagement, and staff from the TSA Office of Security Operations to discuss a resolution. During that meeting, it was apparent that certain information, including already existing physical barriers, had not been taken into consideration by the TSA in its review of the Airport Security Plan amendment. During that meeting TSA O.S.O. and O.S.P.I.E. staff assured AOPA that a TSA HQ site visit would not be necessary and the issue would be resolved easily and quickly.

Three weeks have now passed since that meeting and, despite numerous follow-up phone calls and e-mails to TSA HQ staff, there has yet to be a resolution to the GJT access issue as promised. AOPA respectfully requests that the TSA resolve this issue as quickly as possible to prevent further economic hardship and public access difficulty to the citizens of Grand Junction, Colorado, and the general aviation community at large.

While our current focus is at Grand Junction, this type of challenge for security planning at general aviation airports is not uncommon around the country. Many airport managers share with us that guidance they receive from local federal security directors is inconsistent and unclear. We would appreciate the opportunity to follow up with you and your staff on that larger issue.

As always, we appreciate your assistance with these matters and look forward to collaborating with you and your staff to ensure that security measures for general aviation airports are both effective and appropriate.

Respectfully,



Craig L. Fuller