

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 29, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
US Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

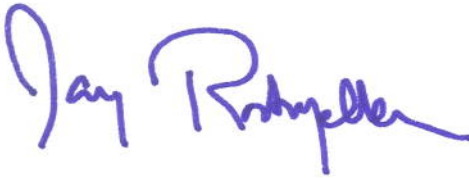
We write to express our interest in the status and completion of the rulemaking by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding Aircraft Repair Station Security. As you know, Congress mandated DHS to promulgate rules about aircraft repair station security in the 2003 Vision 100- Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (P.L. 108-176). Congress revisited the issue in the 2007 Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act (P.L. 110-53), again requiring the agency to complete this rulemaking.

The Act also barred the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) from issuing an operating certificate to a new foreign repair station applicant if DHS failed to implement this rule within 240 days. As a result of DHS's continued inaction in the mandatory time period the FAA has been unable to certify foreign repair stations since August of 2008, creating competitiveness issues for aviation manufacturers seeking to compete in foreign markets and weakening FAA's global safety leadership.

Based on a recent letter from Administrator Pistole to the industry, we understand that the rule will not be finalized until December 2012. We respectfully request that you expedite this rulemaking before that date. While we understand the myriad of issues facing both the Transportation Security Administration and DHS, completing this rulemaking in 2012 must be accomplished to enhance security and address the economic consequences of government inaction to industry.

We also request that you regularly brief the Committee on your progress. Thank you in advance for your review of this request and we look forward to your prompt response.

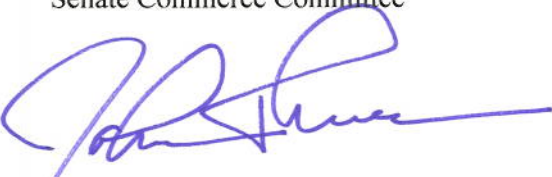
Sincerely,



Senator John D. Rockefeller, IV
Chairman
Senate Commerce Committee



Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee



Senator John Thune
Ranking Member
Aviation Subcommittee
Senate Commerce Committee