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ADAM B. SCHIFF
29TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
 2411 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4176
FAX: (202) 225-5828

DISTRICT OFFICE:
 87 NORTH RAYMOND AVENUE
SUITE 800
PASADENA, CA 91103
(626) 304-2727
FAX: (626) 304-0572

E-MAIL VIA WEB ADDRESS AT:
www.house.gov/schiff

FACEBOOK:
www.facebook.com/congressmanschiff

September 14, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

As you know, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is currently reviewing a proposed rule for repair station security. I urge you to complete its work on the rule by the end 2012, so that the prohibition on issuing new foreign repair station certificates can be lifted.

The Vision 100 – Century Aviation Reauthorization Act required the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) to issue security rules for all aviation repair stations by August 2004. Unfortunately, that deadline was missed. But Congress set a new deadline of August 2008 in the Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act. The August 2008 deadline was missed as well and as a result the Federal Aviation Authority has been prohibited from issuing new foreign repair station certificates since 2008.

The ban on new certificates has prevented U.S.-based aerospace companies from competing in expanding overseas markets. The prohibition has not encouraged the agency to act, instead it has only punished the aviation industry and weakened U.S. leadership in aviation maintenance services. The rule needs to be issued, so that American companies can start competing for foreign repair station contracts.

Late last year, TSA stated that the repair station security station would be completed by the end of 2012. TSA has completed its work on the rule and sent it to DHS for review. I strongly urge your department to complete consideration of this rule so that TSA can publish the rule by 2013.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter, and for all you do to protect this country.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Adam B. Schiff".

Adam B. Schiff
Member of Congress