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July 8, 2010

The Honorable John S. Pistole
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
East Building
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598

RE: Congratulations—How can we help?

Administrator Pistole:

Please accept our congratulations on behalf of the Aeronautical Repair Station Association (ARSA) on your confirmation to lead the Transportation Security Agency (TSA).

ARSA represents aviation maintenance and manufacturing companies throughout the world with the common belief that “good security is good business.” The vast majority of ARSA members are small to medium-size businesses that serve a global customer base. If our members weren’t committed to exceptional safety and security the aviation maintenance industry would be unable to employ 274,634 American workers and have a \$39 billion economic impact on the U.S. economy.

Unfortunately, TSA’s inaction in developing security rules for foreign and domestic repair stations is hindering economic growth and damaging the country’s competitive edge in aviation services. Despite a legislative mandate, the agency failed to meet deadlines for issuing repair station security regulations leading Congress to punish our industry by banning the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) from certifying new foreign repair stations.

Last fall, TSA finally released its draft security rules. However, the certification prohibition remains in place until the rules are finalized and TSA conducts security audits of all foreign repair stations. The FAA’s inability to certificate new repair stations is stifling growth in our sector.

ARSA welcomes the opportunity to assist in developing TSA’s final repair station security rules in a manner that recognizes that a “one-size fits all” approach is insufficient for a global industry. I look forward to working with you and your team to ensure the final TSA rule promotes safety and security without unnecessary regulatory burdens and costs on the small to medium-sized businesses that are the backbone of our industry.

Your Servant,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sarah MacLeod". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" and last name "MacLeod" clearly legible.

Sarah MacLeod
Executive Director