

August 20, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

The undersigned associations are writing to inquire about the status of the repair station security rulemaking and to confirm your continued commitment to publish the rule before year's end.

In response to an industry letter late last year, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) stated that the repair station security rule would be completed in the "fourth quarter of calendar year 2012". Since that time, we understand that the TSA has completed its work on the rule and sent it to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for review. The undersigned associations want to underscore how important it is that DHS and OMB complete consideration in a manner that will permit the repair station security rule to be finalized in the timeframe provided by TSA.

As you know, the Vision 100 - Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (P.L. 108-176) required the TSA to issue security rules for all aviation repair stations by August 2004. When TSA did not meet this deadline, Congress required the security regulations be completed by August 2008 in Public Law 110-53, the Implementing the Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act. As a result of TSA failing to comply with this mandate, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has been prohibited from issuing new foreign repair station certifications since 2008.

Unfortunately, the ban on new foreign repair station certificates is having a detrimental impact on U.S.-based aerospace companies looking to tap into rapidly expanding overseas markets. The longer the prohibition is in effect, the more damage it will cause our nation's competitiveness in aviation and exports. Further, it is expected that foreign nations will impose a reciprocal ban that prevents repair stations located in the United States from gaining approval from foreign civil aviation authorities if we do not act quickly.

It is imperative that TSA issue a final repair station security rule in the immediate future. We urge your Department to complete consideration of this long overdue rulemaking and ensure that TSA will publish the rule by the end of the year. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



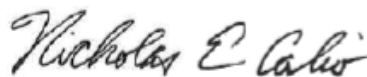
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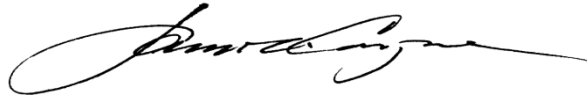
Peter J. Bunce
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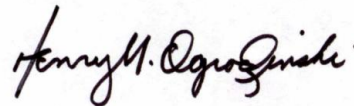
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