

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

August 26, 2014

The Honorable R. Gil Kerlikowske  
Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
The U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Kerlikowski:

We write to respectfully request that additional Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers be assigned to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, the world's busiest commercial airport, as soon as possible.

It is projected that Atlanta's Hartsfield Jackson International Airport will see a nearly ten percent increase in inbound international passenger traffic over the next year. Unfortunately, when passenger traffic rises to a certain level, a ceiling is reached on what can be accomplished through automation; at that point, it becomes critical to have adequate, front-line officers at federal inspection stations. There must be a sufficient number of CBP officers to keep average hourly wait times below thirty minutes, and maximum wait times below forty-five minutes during peak hours of travel in 2015, and beyond.

Since a tipping point is fast approaching, it is better to be proactive rather than reactive. As you know, the fiscal year 2014 Consolidated Omnibus Appropriations bill included funds for 2,000 much-needed additional CBP officers. CBP officers are the best safeguards against the entry of those with nefarious intent and facilitate the entry of low-risk passengers.

Mr. Commissioner, we recognize and appreciate each CBP officer's contributions to our nation's security and economic well-being. We applaud the recent CBP efforts intended to improve the flow of passengers through gateway hubs, including developing and expanding Global Entry, eliminating redundant paper processes, approving deployment of automated passport control kiosks, and working with the private sector to develop mobile passport processing.

The continued success of the hub is critical to the prosperity of the Metro Atlanta region and the State of Georgia. Striking the appropriate balance between facilitating the movement of people and goods and keeping out bad actors and contraband is an enormous undertaking. Timely, thorough, and safe processing of international travelers is an integral component of ensuring that the airport remains a global competitor and maintains the jobs and economic importance to our region.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our views on the importance of the agency keeping pace with projected increases in airline passenger traffic and ensuring the efficient

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functioning of ports of entry. Please do not hesitate to contact us directly with any additional questions or concerns you or your staff may have.

Sincerely,

  
Member of Congress

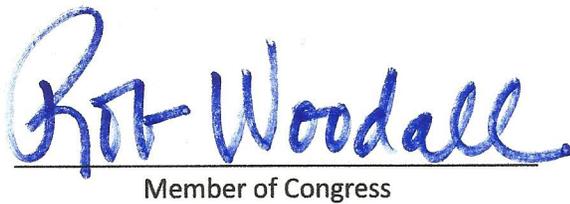
  
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**Letter Cosigners**  
**August 26, 2014**

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5. The Honorable Henry C. "Hank", Jr.
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