April 29, 2019

Mr. John Sanders
Acting Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Mr. Acting Commissioner:

We respectfully write to request that you deploy additional U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and review staffing models to ensure Atlanta has enough officers available to carry out CBP’s important mission.

Hartsfield-Jackson is the world’s busiest airport, serving more than 107 million passengers last year and generating more than $34 billion in annual economic impact. The airport’s continued success, dependent on the smooth operation of international air service, is vital to the competitiveness and prosperity of Metro Atlanta and the State of Georgia.

While international traffic in Atlanta has climbed 14 percent since 2014, unfortunately, the number of CBP officers has declined. Congress funded 600 additional CBP officer positions this year, and as you allocate these positions, we encourage you to appoint a sufficient number of officers to Hartsfield-Jackson.

We appreciate that CBP has worked with the airport and its partners to invest in technology and to eliminate redundancies. Automated kiosks, increased use of Global Entry, and biometric tools help ease the customs process. Despite these innovations, customer satisfaction with customs and immigration processing has declined, and wait times have steadily increased. This underscores the critical need for additional officers.

We remain concerned that CBP’s existing workforce staffing model does not account for current passenger and cargo traffic at Hartsfield-Jackson, much less expected future growth. We encourage you to review the model and ensure that Atlanta has enough officers to ensure a smooth customs process and safely facilitate international tourism and trade. In addition, we hope that CBP ensure a timely and expeditious replacement of Atlanta-based officers in any future reallocation of staff or resources.

As always, we thank you for your consideration of our concerns about this important issue and look forward to your response.
Acting Commissioner Sanders
April 29, 2019
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Sincerely,

JOHN LEWIS
Member of Congress

TOM GRAVES
Member of Congress

SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.
Member of Congress

AUSTIN SCOTT
Member of Congress

DAVID SCOTT
Member of Congress

ROB WOODALL
Member of Congress

HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.
Member of Congress

DOUG COLLINS
Member of Congress

LUCY McBATH
Member of Congress

RICK W. ALLEN
Member of Congress

EARL L. ‘BUDDY’ CARTER
Member of Congress

JODY B. HICE
Member of Congress

BARRY LOUDERMILK
Member of Congress

A. DREW FERGUSON, IV DMD
Member of Congress