

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2009

The Honorable Gale Rossides
Acting Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Acting Administrator Rossides:

We are writing you today regarding the Certified Cargo Screening Program (CCSP). Ensuring that our passenger airplanes are safe is our number one priority. However, we must find a way to detect threats without slowing down commerce.

The United States exports billions of dollars of agricultural products each year nationwide, and Washington and Oregon rank second and third respectively for the amount of fruit exported. We represent districts heavily dependent on the export of perishable items such as cherries, asparagus and strawberries, which will be directly impacted by new screening requirements. For example, approximately half of the cherries exported from the Pacific Northwest each year are shipped on passenger planes. Because of the large role exports play in our economy, we encourage you to work with the agriculture industry to ensure that the CCSP process takes into account the unique characteristics of these products. We can keep our nation safe without slowing down our exports.

We recognize that TSA has a difficult task in developing techniques to screen such a diverse range of cargo. As you continue to prepare for the 100 percent screening requirement next year, we would like to facilitate a meeting between you and members of the fruit and vegetable industry. We look forward to working with you to ensure the development of a screening process that keeps our skies secure while meeting the needs of exporters.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,



Doc Hastings
Member of Congress

Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Greg Walden
Member of Congress