

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

November 13, 2013

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

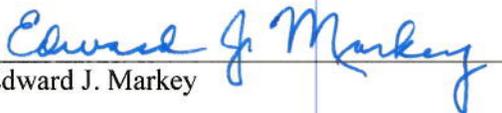
We are writing to you in response to your recently announced plans to examine the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) role in protecting airports. Your announcement comes only days after the fatal shooting of a TSA agent at Los Angeles International Airport.

Earlier this year, TSA announced its intent to use the Airport Security Plans amendment process to assign the responsibility for the monitoring of exit lanes to airport operators. Our review of the proposed amendment has left us with a number of concerns regarding the efficacy and appropriateness of the proposed change, which we outlined in the enclosed letter to TSA Administrator John Pistole. We support TSA's original decision to staff exit lanes with TSA employees and believe TSA's plans to assign responsibility to airport operators could undermine aviation security.

Given the impact of TSA's proposed change on the security of the flying public, airport employees, and airline crewmembers in Massachusetts and throughout the country, we urge you to review this particular proposal by TSA in the context of your larger review of airport security.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Joseph Wender on Senator Markey's staff at 202-224-2742.

Sincerely,

  
Edward J. Markey

  
Elizabeth A. Warren

  
Richard E. Neal

  
James P. McGovern

  
John F. Tierney

  
Michael E. Capuano

  
Stephen F. Lynch

  
Niki S. Tsongas

  
William R. Keating

  
Joseph P. Kennedy III