



One Hundred Seventeenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 11, 2021

The Honorable David Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
6595 Springfield Center Dr.
Springfield, VA 22150

Dear Administrator Pekoske:

Last Wednesday, insurrectionists attacked the United States Capitol intent on preventing the certification of a democratic election and, apparently, inflicting violence upon elected officials. Federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies were completely unprepared for this domestic terror attack despite the importance of the proceedings occurring in the Capitol, the presence of the first three officials in the presidential line of succession, and substantial evidence the attack was planned largely in open internet forums. Several lives were lost, including at least one Capitol Police officer, and many more were injured or placed at grave risk.

In the aftermath of the attack, its perpetrators have continued to enjoy freedom of movement throughout the country. Only a fraction of the insurrectionists have been arrested, and many of those arrested have been released pending a future court date. To our knowledge, the Federal government has not prevented a single insurrectionist from boarding an aircraft. Several have harassed and threatened to harm Members of Congress, flight crewmembers, and the public while traveling.

Now, growing online chatter indicates that members of many of the same groups that planned and carried out Wednesday's attack intend to return to Washington, D.C., to cause further disruption and violence in the coming days, including at the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden. Despite this imminent threat, it appears little is being done to disrupt the travel of terrorists who just attacked the seat of the U.S. Government and wish to do so again.

Therefore, please provide a briefing not later than the end of this week on the following topics:

- Current efforts to disrupt the travel of white supremacist and other domestic terrorist groups who may be planning further attacks against the U.S. Government and may be targeting the inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden;
- Options available for quickly denying air carrier service to individuals identified as posing a potential threat, including TSA's authorities to prevent individuals from flying on a temporary or flight-by-flight basis;

- The current status of efforts to identify and add to watchlists the perpetrators of Wednesday's attack and the standards being used to determine their vetting status for future travel;
- Plans to protect surface transportation from potential threats; and
- Efforts to protect Members of Congress, flight crewmembers, and the public from domestic terror groups and sympathizers while traveling.

Thank you for your prompt attention to these critical matters.

Sincerely,



BENNIE G. THOMPSON
Chairman



JOHN KATKO
Ranking Member