

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

March 2, 2012

The Honorable Janet A. Napolitano  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

We are writing to seek your assistance in developing a plan to address the large increase in international passengers at Orlando International Airport (OIA). Current processing delays are hampering the region's ability to serve current passengers and attract new visitors.

Central Florida is increasingly becoming the destination of choice for many visitors from South America and Europe. The number of international passengers processed through OIA during 2011 increased to more than 3.5 million, representing a 7.9% increase from the prior year. The processing times for international flights are becoming longer and longer. The 130 dedicated U.S. Custom & Border Protection (CBP) personnel are making a valiant effort to perform their required duties, but the concentration of flights originating in Europe in the afternoon and the flights originating in Latin America in the morning are taxing the available resources of CBP at the airport. Since 2009 OIA's international passenger traffic has grown by more than 17.0% without any increase in CBP personnel. The results are wait times that exceed two and sometimes three hours. To be clear, the maximum processing time published by CBP is 130 minutes. However, this does not take into account those all too frequent instances when passengers are required to remain on board the arriving aircraft, parked on ramps for 30, 45 or 60 minutes because the lines in the Federal Inspection Station (FIS) are too long to securely and efficiently process them.

President Obama recognized this fact when he traveled to Central Florida to announce his Executive Order directing the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Commerce to develop and implement a plan, within 60 days, to increase nonimmigrant visa processing capacity in China and Brazil by 40 percent in the coming year. The President recognizes that increased visitation to the United States means jobs, yet without additional CBP resources, Orlando International Airport will not be able to help the President achieve that goal.

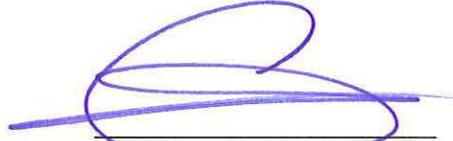
Our request for additional CBP officers is supported not only by the Aviation Authority Board, but by the major employers and stakeholders in Central Florida, including Walt Disney World, Universal Studios, SeaWorld, the Convention Center and the City of Orlando. The Aviation Authority is also committing resources to address this matter by making improvements in the two FIS facilities at Orlando International Airport.

We respectfully request your assistance in helping us resolve this matter in a timely manner. We look forward to working with you to provide additional human and technological resources for the Orlando International Airport.

Sincerely,



Corrine Brown  
Member of Congress



John L. Mica  
Member of Congress



Bill Nelson  
U.S. Senate

CC: David V. Aguilar, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs & Border Protection