



U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Washington, DC 20515

Don Young
Chairman

James L. Oberstar
Ranking Democratic Member

Lloyd A. Jones, Chief of Staff
Elizabeth Megginson, Chief Counsel

October 13, 2004

David Heymsfeld, Democratic Chief of Staff

Honorable David M. Stone
Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (TSA-1)
Transportation Security Administration
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 22202-4220

Dear Secretary Stone,

I write regarding the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA's) recently issued Interim Final Rule on Flight Training for Aliens and other Designated Individuals for flight training.

As you know, flight training is an important part of the Florida economy. Following the tragic events of September 11, new requirements have been imposed on the flight training industry through Section 612 of Vision 100. This section transfers the screening from the Department of Justice to the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) for aliens training in aircraft weighing more than 12,500 pounds. This provision also authorized a notification for aliens receiving flight instruction in aircraft weighing 12,500 pounds or less.

The legislation set an aggressive timeframe to improve security, while recognizing the different characteristics of training for large and light aircraft. I am now hearing concerns from the pilot and flight training community that the TSA's rule implementing this law is creating problems as it applies to smaller aircraft.

Given the complexity of the interim rule and the impact that this rule has on existing pilots, as well as students and flight instructors across the country, I encourage the TSA to work with the industry to resolve difficulties with the rule by extending the compliance deadline for 90 days.

Thank you for your attention to this request. I look forward to working with you to continue improving aviation security.

Sincerely,

John L. Mica
Chairman

Subcommittee on Aviation