



**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure**

**James L. Oberstar**  
Chairman

Washington, DC 20515  
May 6, 2009

**John L. Mica**  
Ranking Republican Member

David Heymsfeld, Chief of Staff  
Ward W. McCarragher, Chief Counsel

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The Honorable James Oberstar, Chairman  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building

The Honorable Jerry Costello, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Aviation  
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure  
2251 Rayburn House Office Building

Dear Chairmen Oberstar and Costello:

At our request, the Department of Transportation Office of the Inspector General conducted an audit of the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) vulnerability to cyber attack. The Inspector General's report, released today, validates concerns we have had regarding the FAA's ability to defend against a cyber-terrorist attack. In fact, the report cited several instances in recent years where hackers successfully compromised the FAA's networks, and in one case, even caused a partial shutdown of air traffic control systems in Alaska.

The vulnerability to attack identified by the Inspector General could jeopardize the entire industry and pose a significant threat to aviation safety. Pursuant to Homeland Security Presidential Directive (HSPD)—7, the Department of Transportation is required to ensure that the air traffic control system is protected against both physical and cyber security threats. As such, we request that at the first possible opportunity the Subcommittee on Aviation conduct an oversight hearing to focus on how the FAA and the Department of Transportation's Cyber Security Management Center (CSMC) plan to address the issues raised in the Inspector General's report.

If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Holly Woodruff Lyons or Mr. Bailey Edwards at (202) 226-3220.

Sincerely,

John L. Mica  
Ranking Republican Member  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure

Thomas E. Petri  
Ranking Republican Member  
Subcommittee on Aviation