

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2016

The Honorable Peter Neffenger
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
601 12th Street South
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Mr. Administrator:

With the announcement that the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) plans to hire additional Transportation Security Officers (TSOs), we respectfully request that TSA deploy at least 100 additional TSOs to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) as soon as possible.

We are grateful that you and your Atlanta-based staff have worked with the airport and airlines to find innovative ways to process passengers in a reasonable timeframe. Striking the appropriate balance between efficiency and safety is an enormous undertaking, and we recognize TSA's and TSOs' hard work to find that balance.

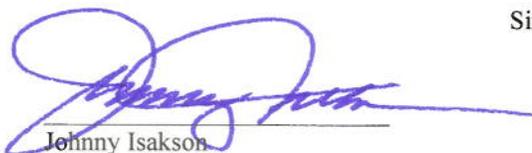
Unfortunately, sheer volume can overwhelm even the most efficient checkpoint operations. In Atlanta, this year's passenger traffic already increased five percent over last year's busiest recorded levels. Many constituents and stakeholders are contacting our offices to express frustration and alarm at the long wait times for passenger security screening. This could be a deterrent to air travel that would have a significant economic impact on our region and state.

The continued success of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport is critical to the prosperity of Metro Atlanta and the State of Georgia. Given the heavy passenger volumes forecast for Atlanta this summer, it is critical that adequate, trained personnel are in place to meet the expected demand. TSA's recent request to reprogram funds to hire new screeners is a positive step intended to ease expected long wait times this summer.

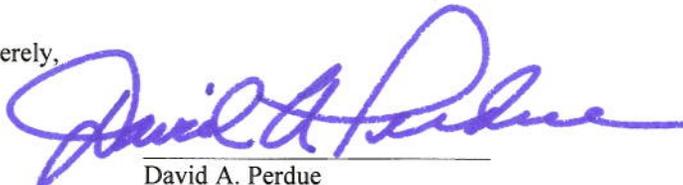
We appreciate your hard work and commitment to ensuring airport safety and efficiency. Increasing the number of TSOs will result in better, more efficient use of Hartsfield-Jackson's many screening lanes during all periods of the day, and especially at peak travel times. This will help prevent passenger inconvenience and missed flights. Furthermore, quickly clearing passengers from non-secured areas will enhance airport safety.

We hope that you will deploy more trained TSO personnel to frontline airports, especially ATL, as soon as possible. As always, we thank you for your consideration of our concerns on this very serious matter.

Sincerely,



Johnny Isakson
United States Senator



David A. Perdue
United States Senator