

DEC 11 2017



Transportation
Security
Administration

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Thompson:

Thank you for your November 9, 2017 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I share your concerns. The threat to civil aviation is complex, dynamic, and persistent. At the same time, the world's reliance on the aviation network to facilitate the movement of people and goods continues to grow. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is focused on pursuing strategic and tactical approaches to address the constantly evolving threat landscape, improve the passenger screening experience, and deliver next-generation screening capabilities.

With regard to your question pertaining to the funding for the deployment of improved screening technology system-wide and the timeline for such a deployment, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) has begun work on the development and deployment of checkpoint Computed Tomography (CT) x-ray technology. In Fiscal Year (FY) 2017, with Congress's concurrence, TSA reprogrammed \$15.3 million for testing and algorithm development of checkpoint CT systems to meet the new Accessible Property Screening System (APSS) detection standard. APSS will provide a significant improvement in TSA's detection capabilities at the checkpoint. Depending on funding availability and FY 2018 priorities, TSA would work towards acquiring up to 40 checkpoint CT units to further develop and test the APSS algorithms, and to qualify the CT system.

Based on development work and contingent on funding, TSA expects deployment of checkpoint CT systems beyond the prototype phase to occur in early-to-mid FY 2019.

Thank you again for your letter and for voicing your support of DHS in this matter. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David P. Pekoske".

David P. Pekoske
Administrator