



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

March 27, 2013

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

We are writing to express our concern over the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) decision to extend the Global Entry trusted traveler program to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The program is designed for low-risk, frequent visitors to gain expedited screening upon arrival to the United States. Certainly, despite our longstanding relationship with the Kingdom, there are potential risks in opening this program to Saudi Arabia that must be considered.

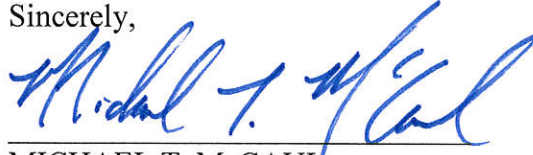
Of the 19 individuals who hijacked American planes on September 11, 2001 – 15 were from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. More recently, following the plot to blow up an international flight over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009, the Department saw fit to increase the scrutiny of passengers from countries like Saudi Arabia. This must be a factor in determining who to admit into the Global Entry Program.

As members of the House Committee on Homeland Security, we seek assurances from the Department that passengers from countries added to the program will receive the appropriate screening. Additionally, we request that the Department explain:

- How did Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and DHS decide to grant Global Entry membership to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before other trusted allies?
- What additional steps will be taken to ensure that the Global Entry system cannot be used by terrorist operatives in high-risk countries?
- In their Joint Statement announcing the expansion of the Global Entry program, DHS and the Saudi Ministry of Interior (MOI) declared, "The trusted traveler programs will facilitate trade and travel between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America and will help authorities from MOI and DHS more effectively identify potential threats to keep their borders and countries secure." How does DHS plan to work with Saudi entities to verify information provided by Global Entry applicants and keep the Homeland Secure?

This Committee is supportive of the Department's efforts to expand trade and increase travel to the United States. However, we remain vigilant for vulnerabilities that our enemies can exploit to gain access to the Homeland. Expanding Global Entry to high-risk countries may represent such a risk.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL T. McCAUL
Chairman



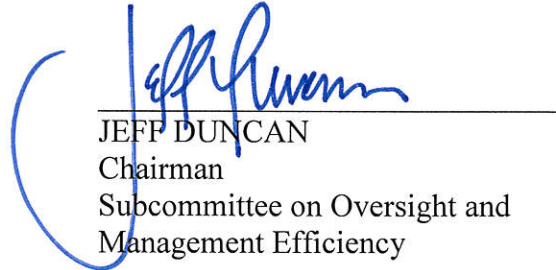
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