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## United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,  
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

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JOHN KEAST, STAFF DIRECTOR  
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September 17, 2019

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan  
Acting Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary McAleenan:

I am writing to inquire about the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)'s plans to educate the public about the upcoming REAL ID implementation deadline. Beginning October 1, 2020, every air traveler 18 years of age and older will need a REAL ID-compliant driver's license (or other acceptable form of ID) to fly within the United States. I am increasingly concerned about the potential disruption for air travel if there is widespread lack of compliance with the law among the flying public. DHS's efforts will play a crucial role in ensuring that the public is aware and takes the necessary steps to acquire compliant identification.

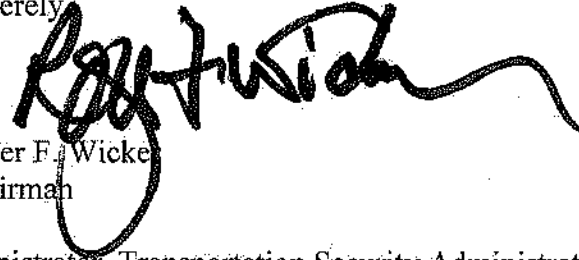
I was encouraged by Acting Deputy Administrator Cogswell's recent testimony before the Commerce Committee on DHS's public awareness campaign. Specifically, I appreciate the Transportation Security Administration's initiatives to notify travelers at the checkpoint about non-compliant identification and also to inform state and local identification issuing authorities. DHS should also develop contingency plans to deal with disruption at the airports. As Chairman, I will continue to exert oversight on this matter and request that you keep me informed of the Department's progress. To help inform the committee's oversight, please respond to the following questions:

1. What steps are being taken to inform the traveling public about the upcoming REAL ID deadline and the consequences of not having compliant licenses?
2. How is DHS engaging aviation and travel industry stakeholders to encourage them to amplify this message?
3. What action is DHS taking to engage with relevant state licensing authorities and other state and local officials?

4. Is the Department developing contingency plans to prepare for potential disruptions at screening checkpoints that may accompany the October 1, 2020, deadline should a significant number of travelers arrive without a REAL ID compliant driver's license or other acceptable forms of identification (e.g. passport, military ID)?

I appreciate your prompt attention to this important matter and look forward to working with you to ensure America's air transportation system remains, safe, secure, and efficient.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Roger F. Wicke", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Roger F. Wicke  
Chairman

cc: The Honorable David P. Pekoske, Administrator, Transportation Security Administration  
Ms. Patricia F. S. Cogswell, Acting Deputy Administrator, Transportation Security Administration