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April 4, 2022

The Honorable David P. Pekoske  
Administrator  
Transportation Security Administration  
601 South 12<sup>th</sup> Street—East Building  
Arlington, VA 20598

Dear Administrator Pekoske:

I strongly endorse the March 3 letter addressed to you from Jacqueline Yaft, Chief Executive Officer of the Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS), requesting prompt action to secure additional TSA staffing and upgraded technology for AUS.

As a frequent AUS traveler, I have personally witnessed the ever-worsening situation as AUS struggles to meet the demands of a growing population and a rapidly expanding economy. On Monday, March 28, 2022, when I arrived at AUS for my flight to D.C., the Airport was in a state of chaos. Security lines spilled outside, passengers missed flights, and a rental car drop-off area backed up to the point that people desperate to make their flights left their cars on the side of the road. Only because I personally use CLEAR was I able to make my own flight in time to get to Washington for Congressional proceedings. I am advised again today that unreasonably long passenger lines are stretching outside the terminal.

Without increased levels of staffing from TSA, this untenable situation will happen again and again. AUS monitors passenger forecasts and has the data to plan for staffing necessary on any given day. AUS has opened an additional security checkpoint. AUS is investing in improved technology and expansion of space. Without TSA staff, the knowledge provided by forecasts cannot be utilized. Without TSA staff, the additional security checkpoint cannot process passengers. Without the support of TSA staffing, AUS's efforts fall short.

AUS shares TSA's mission to ensure the freedom of movement for people and commerce. Austin's status as an international city supporting world-class endeavors and worldwide visitors is being held hostage by its airport's inability to access TSA support.

I urge you to work with AUS to ensure that the embarrassing failure I witnessed is not permitted to reoccur. I look forward to hearing from you promptly regarding what specific steps TSA is taking to respond to each of the four AUS requests and how soon these can be implemented.

Sincerely,



Lloyd Doggett