Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2005

Richard L. Skinner
Inspector General
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Mr. Skinner:

Recently, more than two hundred employees of the Transportation Safety Administration (TSA) working at Logan International Airport in Boston have written to us asking for our assistance. They allege, with great specificity, a number of unfair labor practices, including discrimination, favoritism, conflicts of interest, inconsistencies in discipline, and other incidents not conducive to good morale or performance. In addition, they cite a turnover rate at Logan that is significantly higher than the national average.

The employees requested that the Department of Homeland Security conduct a thorough, independent investigation into their concerns. We've been told that the Department's Ombudsman representative has informed the employees that its office could not investigate these matters. As a result, the employees suggest that the Department's Office of Inspector General conduct the inquiry.

We understand that misunderstandings arise in labor-management relations under the best of circumstances. It may be that the grave responsibilities entrusted to TSA managers and employees exacerbate normal tensions. However, the allegations brought forth by TSA employees are disturbing, and if true, could have a serious adverse effect on job performance and the safety and security of passengers, employees, and others at Logan International Airport. We ask that you commence an investigation into these allegations.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter. We await your response.

Sincerely,

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Senate

EDWARD M. KENNEDY

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