



THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR  
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

October 30, 2001

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert  
Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

I write to offer my complete support for H.R. 3150, the Secure Transportation for America Act, which is currently being considered before the Congress.

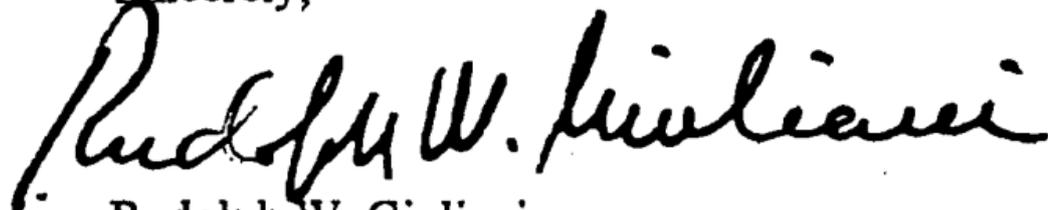
I firmly believe that this legislation carefully addresses the need for the federal government to oversee the airline security screening process, but not necessarily assume the responsibility for hiring individuals to perform the actual screening. The bill gives the federal government the choice of either hiring federal workers or contracting with private companies who demonstrate that they can provide tougher and safer screening standards. This will ensure that the government maintains the flexibility needed to discipline or quickly remove ineffective screeners or screening companies.

The legislation would create a new Transportation Security Agency (TSA) within the Department of Transportation. The TSA would take over airline security screening at the nation's airports, which is a crucial step in restoring the confidence in our aviation system. This new agency will expand the Federal Air Marshal program, as well as supervise, train, and perform background checks on those individuals performing the actual screening.

By shifting control of aviation security to the TSA, and away from the airlines, the bill ensures that the economic concerns of the airlines will not interfere with our nation's increased aviation security needs. In placing the TSA within the existing infrastructure of the DOT, H.R. 3150 also recognizes that the DOT is the one federal agency responsible for aviation security. With over 35 years of operational experience, the DOT clearly has the most qualified personnel to successfully perform this critical function.

I am very pleased with the generous support and responsiveness of the Congress since the tragic events of September 11<sup>th</sup>. I hope that we can continue working together in a bipartisan fashion to help rebuild and strengthen our nation. I wholeheartedly support H.R. 3150, and urge the swift passage of this essential legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rudolph W. Giuliani". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Rudolph W. Giuliani