



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

*Proudly Representing the **Flight Attendants** of American Airlines*

Office of the President

August 30, 2017

Honorable Elaine Chao
Office of the Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
West Building, 9th Floor
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington DC, 20590-9898

Dear Honorable Chao:

The Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), the largest independent Flight Attendant union in the world, was surprised to hear that Pittsburgh International Airport (PIT) will begin allowing the non-ticketed general public beyond security checkpoints. As National President of our Union, I view this change as significant and am concerned that the Airlines, APFA and perhaps other stakeholders were not consulted or even informed that this decision was being made. We understand that economic pressures may have influenced this decision, however, allowing the general non-flying public, beyond security checkpoints raises serious security concerns. I believe the sole priority of airports is to transport our citizens safely and without incident. Security policies should not be relaxed simply to boost economic activity.

We know all too well what the risks of inadequate security can be and we must make safety, in all its facets, our highest priority.

APFA represents over 26,000 flight attendants at American Airlines including those who currently fly out of a satellite base in Pittsburgh. As safety and security professionals, our Flight Attendants fly 6,700 flights per day carrying upwards of 140,000 passengers. The safety and security of airline passengers is our number one goal and in some cases, the very last line of defense in the case of terrorism. Because safety is our top priority, we are extremely concerned and we object to these recent changes to airport security policy.

We would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this with you before it becomes permanent policy or is implemented at other airports. The aviation system in the US is the safest in the world and we must work together to make sure that is not compromised.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Ross
National President
Association of Professional Flight Attendants



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August 30, 2017

Honorable David P. Pekoske, Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, Virginia 22202

Dear Honorable Pekoske:

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Honorable Elaine C. Duke
Office of Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Honorable Duke:

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