



October 17, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith, Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter King, Chairman  
Homeland Security Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Smith and King:

The National Association of Security Companies (NASCO) is the nation's leading industry association representing contract private security companies. Nearly two million people are employed in private security throughout the United States protecting commercial, governmental, private properties, and people working in and around such facilities. Private security officers often detect and report suspicious activity to authorities, but even with extensive training it can be difficult to determine whether an observed activity may be in violation of a law relating to an act of terrorism. Making the reporting of such activity even more challenging is the possibility that mistaken reports will result in litigation being brought against officers and their employers.

Private security officers literally provide millions of eyes and ears throughout our nation, but they essentially operate as private citizens in most jurisdictions. It is therefore important to the security of this country that private officers and all citizens, without fear of litigation, be able to report to authorized officials reasonably suspicious activity that may or may not be in violation of a law relating to an act of terrorism. Accordingly, NASCO strongly supports the enactment of the "See Something Say Something Act," which will extend the current legal immunity provided for such suspicious activity reports in the passenger transportation sector to any such reports.

NASCO commends your leadership in passing the "See Something Say Something Act" out of both the House Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees, and we urge that the Act be taken up on the House Floor and by the Senate without delay. There is no doubt that suspicious activity reports from citizens have thwarted potential terrorist attacks in the U.S. In addition, the current suspicious activity reporting immunity law, with its requirements of "objectively reasonable" suspicion and "good faith" reporting to an "authorized" official, was passed with overwhelming bi-partisan support. To further help secure our nation, Congress must pass the "See Something Say Something Act" and extend legal immunity to any reports of suspicious activity that may be in violation of a law relating to an act of terrorism.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jim McNulty". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jim McNulty  
President