

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 17, 2013

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

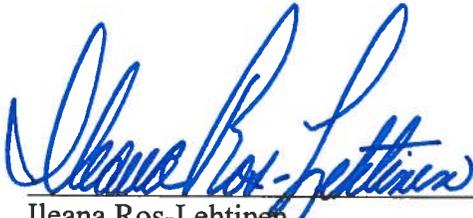
We are writing to express our support for Miami International Airport's (MIA) request to participate in the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Reimbursable Services Program. This program, which is part of the recently passed Consolidated and Further Continuing Appropriations Act of 2013 (P.L. 113-6), authorizes the CBP Commissioner to enter into up to five agreements to provide services on a reimbursable basis by December 31, 2013.

As you know from your recent visit, adequate CBP staffing is critical for the daily operations at MIA, our nation's busiest airport for international passengers and cargo arrivals. Unfortunately, based on the growing number of passengers arriving or transitioning through the airport, CBP staffing remains insufficient, and threatens travel and tourism to the U.S.

As the "Gateway to the Americas," our ports-of-entry serve as the doorstep to the United States, welcoming 9.3 million international passengers in 2011. However, passengers at MIA are experiencing long wait times for immigration and customs processing. As time passes by, this endemic problem will only deteriorate, hurting the economy and setting back efforts to make Florida competitive to attract international business and tourism. More than one million jobs in Florida rely on international trade and commerce, and therefore it is crucial to have our airport properly staffed to welcome the many businesses and international travelers that arrive at MIA.

In accordance with all applicable rules and regulations, we respectfully ask that you give full and fair consideration to MIA's verbal and written request to participate in the program. MIA's selection among the five entities to participate in the reimbursement program would be a positive step in our ongoing effort to work with the Department of Homeland Security to ensure adequate resources for CBP staffing at U.S. ports of entry.

Sincerely,



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Frederica Wilson
Member of Congress



Joe Garcia
Member of Congress