



AirportsUnited

March 23, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
S-230, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader
U.S. Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2267 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Majority Leader Thune, Minority Leader Schumer, Speaker Johnson, and Minority Leader Jeffries:

On behalf of more than 100 airport leaders from across the country, we are writing to implore you to end the funding impasse for the Department of Homeland Security immediately. As you are well aware, tens of thousands of dedicated federal employees who ensure the security and safety of the traveling public are currently working without pay, a situation that is leading to growing levels of absences across the country as workers, many of whom live paycheck to paycheck, are forced to contemplate other jobs.

Absent an agreement to resolve the shutdown, we are deeply concerned about the growing operational disruptions at airports. Since missing a full paycheck on March 13, unexcused absences of screeners have tripled to a nationwide average above 10 percent, with several airports experiencing call-out rates above 50 percent. This has caused lengthy wait times during an already busy period with peak spring break travel. We are concerned that staff shortages at airports will grow further just as our country prepares to host the FIFA World Cup, America's 250th birthday celebrations, and other high-profile events. Screeners who leave the agency during the shutdown will be extremely difficult to replace in the near term given the time it takes to train and deploy personnel for these important jobs.

The impacts of the shutdown are significant, growing, and potentially long-lasting. We urge you to take action to immediately end the shutdown, and we respectfully request that Congress enact legislation to provide pay for TSA and other critical federal aviation workers who keep our nation safe and secure during any future shutdown so that they never miss a paycheck again.

Sincerely,

Kevin M. Burke
President and CEO
Airports Council International – North America

Todd Hauptli
President and CEO
American Association of Airport Executives

Don Green

Don Green
Director of Transportation Services
Abilene Regional Airport

Ralph Hennessy

Ralph Hennessy
Executive Director
Alexandria International Airport

Christina A. Cassotis

Christina A. Cassotis
CEO
**Allegheny County
Airport Authority**

Ghizlane Badawi

Ghizlane Badawi
CEO
**Austin-Bergstrom
International Airport**

Jose Saavedra

Jose Saavedra, C.M.
Airport Director
Bangor International Airport

Jeff Roach

Jeff Roach, A.A.E.
Director Aviation and Transit
**Billings-Logan
International Airport**

Nino Sapone

Nino Sapone
Chief Executive Officer
**Bishop International Airport
Authority**

Greg Haug

Greg Haug
Airport Director
Bismarck Airport

Rebecca L. Hupp

Rebecca Hupp, A.A.E.
Airport Director
Boise Airport

Nicole Noll-Williams

Nicole Noll-Williams
President & CEO
Capital Region Airport Authority

Perry J. Miller

Perry J. Miller, PhD, A.A.E., I.A.P.
President and Chief Executive Officer
**Capital Region
Airport Commission**

Glenn S. Januska

Glenn S. Januska
Airport Director
**Casper/Natrona County
International Airport**

Bruce Ransom

Bruce Ransom
Airport Division Manager
**Central Wyoming
Regional Airport**

Elliott Summey

Elliott Summey
President & CEO
**Charleston Regional
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Haley Gentry
Chief Executive Officer
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Cherry Capital Airport

Lawrence J. Krauter
Chief Executive Officer
**Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky
International Airport**

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President & Chief Executive Officer
**Columbus Regional
Airport Authority**

Michael W. Shea
Executive Director & CEO
Connecticut Airport Authority

Charlene Reynolds
Director
**County of Orange - John Wayne
Airport**

Courtney Johnson
Director of Airports
County of San Luis Obispo

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Chief Executive Officer
**Dallas Ft Worth
International Airport**

Patrick Carreno
Director of Aviation
Dallas Love Field

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Chief Executive Officer
Denver International Airport

Brian C. Mulcahy
Chief Executive Officer
Des Moines Airport Authority

Tom Werner
Executive Director
Duluth Airport Authority

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Aviation Director
Durango-La Plata County Airport

David Reid
Director of Aviation
Eagle County Regional Airport

Martin P. Lenss
Airport Director
Eastern Iowa Airport

Juan Antonio Nevarez
Aviation Director
El Paso International Airport

Cathryn Stephens
Airport Director
Eugene Airport

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Executive Director
**Fargo-Hector
International Airport**

Francisco Partida
Interim Director of Aviation
**Fresno Yosemite
International Airport**

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Airport Director
Friedman Memorial Airport

Torrance Richardson
President & CEO
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Airport Authority**

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Executive Director
**Glynn County Airport
Commission**

Clay Williams
Executive Director
**Gulfport-Biloxi
International Airport**

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Director
**Hawaii Department
of Transportation**

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Executive Director
Hollywood Burbank Airport

Jim Szczesniak
Director of Aviation
Houston Airport System

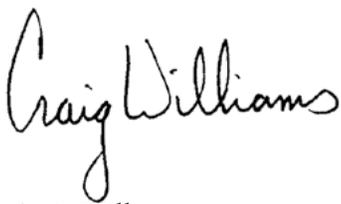
Luther H. Roberts, Jr.
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Huntsville International Airport

Ian Turner
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Jim Elwood, A.A.E.
CEO
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Mark D. VanLoh
Chief Executive Officer
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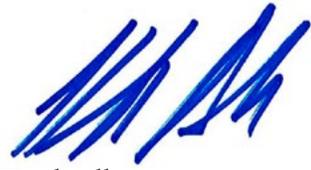
Bryan Johnson, A.A.E.
Executive Director
**Johnson County Airport
Commission - Kansas**



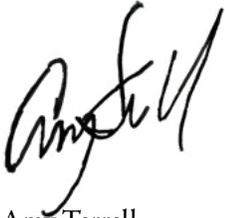
Craig Williams
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Melissa Cooper
Director of Aviation
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Executive Director
Lake Charles Regional Airport



Amy Terrell
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Laramie Regional Airport



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Airport**



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Executive Director
**Lehigh Valley
International Airport**



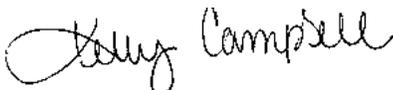
Eric J. Frankl
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Lexington Blue Grass Airport



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Executive Director
Lincoln Airport Authority



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Executive Director
**Louisville Muhammad Ali
International Airport**



Kelly Campbell
Executive Director of Aviation
**Lubbock Preston Smith
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Milwaukee Mitchell International Airport



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Executive Director/CEO
Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport/Metropolitan Airports Commission



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Missoula Montana Airport



Christine Morello
Executive Director
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Judith Olmstead
Director of Airports
Myrtle Beach International Airport



Mark Perryman
President and Chief Executive Officer
Norfolk Airport Authority



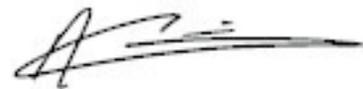
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Portland International Jetport



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Benjamin J. Leischner, A.A.E.
Executive Director
Quad Cities International Airport



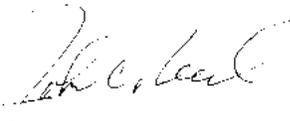
Patrick Dame
Executive Director
Rapid City Regional Airport



Michael W. Conner
Director of Aviation
**Rick Husband Amarillo
International Airport**



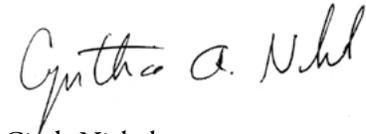
Mike Stewart
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Airport Director
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Aviation Managing Director
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**Springfield-Branson
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