



Good afternoon,

This morning, I had the pleasure of meeting with the senior staff of the House Homeland Security Committee. They requested a meeting with AfA to gain more insight about the industry's response to the TSA's Interim Final Rule on Certified Cargo Screening Program and IAC Technology Pilots. We met for about half an hour and concluded the meeting with several action items that should provide much needed clarity for air freight forwarders.

**Topics covered at today's meeting included:**

Concern over STA's (cost, privacy, paperwork): The committee staff understands that this will place a new burden on forwarders, but believes the additional paperwork is necessary. Based on their conversations with TSA, it appears that the entire industry will not be up for STA review at the same 5 year schedule, but that TSA will be working to update the STA's as they reach the 5 year mark since the applicant's initial STA was processed. The committee is also attuned to the cost concerns, both with ensuring the price is accurate and that it is clearly established, and plans to include this topic in their comments to the IFR.

Concerns on technology: After hearing the ongoing concerns from forwarders on the lack of guarantee that technology purchased for screening today will still be viable after August 2010, the committee staff agreed that was a problem. They will be working on gaining a written explanation of technology approval rules and protection of forwarders investments far beyond 2010.

I believe this was a productive meeting and that the Committee is working to encourage TSA to pursue all steps to ensure CCSP is successful. They want to understand the barriers to CCSP participation more fully, so they can find ways to overcome these barriers. The committee staff echoed TSA's statements that they are supportive of CCSP as a key way to meet the mandate.

We also proposed an expanded schedule for TSA town hall meetings on CCSP, a recommendation the committee took to immediately, and would like your feedback on what cities should be included on that tour. What else do you need from TSA in order to meet the 2010 mandate? We will work on sharing those ideas with the committee in the future and will provide up-to-date feedback and information from TSA and the committee.

I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Brandon Fried, Executive Director  
The Airforwards Association  
750 National Press Building  
529 14th Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20045  
202-393-2818

