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Airforwarders Association: Fund cargo screeners

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Despite progress being made in implementing the Certified Cargo Screener Program, significant challenges remain in future success due to lack of funding, according to executive director of the **Airforwarders Association** in testimony before the House Committee on Homeland Security.

Brandon Fried testified that because of the extremely high cost of purchasing machinery without federal assistance, many forwarders may choose not to participate in what is the Transportation Security Administration's primary tool to achieve 100 percent screening of cargo by the August 2010.

"We are extremely concerned about the lack of government funding for the 100 percent screening mandate," said Fried. "Congress has stated that homeland security is a federal government priority certainly; aviation security is included on that list of responsibilities. If it is a government mandate, for a government responsibility to secure our planes, why then is it not the government's money that provides for that security?"

A recent survey of **Airforwarders Association** members demonstrates that concerns about lack of participation are well founded. Of the 60 percent of surveyed members who have less than 10 offices, nearly 100 percent stated that without additional funds, they would not choose to participate as a certified cargo screening facility.