



**Airforwardsers Association Responds to the Administration's
Proposed FY09 Funding Recommendation for Air Cargo Security
Programs**

Washington, D.C. (February 5, 2008): Brandon Fried, executive director of the Airforwardsers Association, issued the following statement today in response to the Bush Administration's recently released FY09 Budget proposal for the Department of Homeland Security, with particular attention on the provisions for air cargo security funding:

"The Airforwardsers Association is pleased with the White House's acknowledgement of the federal government's responsibility to fund the new mandates for air cargo security as established in the 'Implementing the 9/11 Commission Recommendations Act of 2007'. The \$100 million recommendation for air cargo inspectors, canine teams and the Certified Shipper Program provides a good starting point to achieve the benchmarks established by Congress.

However, we remain concerned with the potential for these air cargo security programs to become an unfunded mandate, given that both TSA and Congressional Research Services estimate that the cost of 100% screening over 10 years will be a staggering \$3.6 billion dollars.

We recognize the current budget environment that Congress finds itself in; however, shifting the costs of homeland security onto airlines and private companies is an inappropriate budgetary ploy. Given that protecting our homeland is a responsibility of the federal government, we urge Congress to provide appropriations to make a larger investment in meeting the 100% screening mandate."

About the Airforwardsers Association:

The Airforwardsers Association, with a full membership of 300 members, was founded in 1990, and today provides



Airforwarders Association

lobbying, training, information, and other beneficial services to the air forwarding community. The association works closely with the U.S. Congress, U.S. federal regulatory agencies and administration departments, air carriers, service providers, and other industry-related entities throughout America and abroad. For more information visit www.airforwarders.org