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CHAIRMAN, INVESTIGATIONS AND
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May 1, 2012

The Honorable Peter T. King
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman King:

I am writing to follow up on a letter I sent to you in November requesting that the Committee on Homeland Security hold a hearing to investigate Transportation Security Administration (TSA) procedures for securing food service carts as they move throughout airports and on to commercial aircraft. Unfortunately, the allegations of lax standards which I outlined in my last letter are not unique, and it appears that problems with TSA have become everyday occurrences. As a result, I believe that the Committee on Homeland Security has a duty to thoroughly examine TSA's failings.

As you know, in recent weeks, the media has reported numerous new allegations relating to misconduct, unprofessionalism, and in some cases, even corruption by TSA agents. In just the last month, Americans have read news articles about overzealous pat-downs of a scared four-year old, an officer forcing a mother to prove that her breast pump was real, and officers at Los Angeles International Airport taking bribes in exchange for allowing illicit drugs through security checkpoints. Meanwhile, WSB-TV, Atlanta's local ABC affiliate, reported last week that TSA has cleared a number of U.S. airports to hire employees without giving them complete background checks. Although TSA's web site states that integrity is among the agency's core values, these incidents, along with so many others which have been reported nationwide, show that a serious investigation is necessary.

It is clear that TSA has become nothing more than a broken, bloated bureaucracy which has lost sight of its stated mission: to protect our nation's transportation systems. Instead of focusing on terrorists who may be attempting to board commercial flights, TSA officers have busied themselves with patting down children and violating the civil rights of Americans who simply want to get from point "A" to point "B" unimpeded. Even more importantly, the

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corruption and continued lack of security among TSA's own personnel puts our country at extreme risk. This is a matter which cannot be further delayed. As such, I once again request that the Committee hold a hearing on this matter as soon as possible, and if necessary, act to institute broad reforms to the agency.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul C. Broun". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "P".

Paul C. Broun, M.D.
Member of Congress