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November 7, 2007

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff,

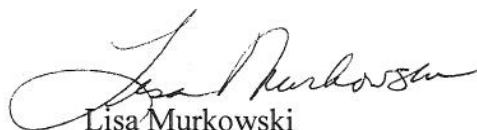
I am writing to request that the Department of Homeland Security extend the current comment period for the notice of proposed rulemaking, *Advance Information on Private Aircraft Arriving and Departing the United States*, announced by the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) on September 18, 2007. While I support the efforts of CBP and the Department of Homeland Security to enhance aviation security, the proposed rule has generated great concern within the general aviation community in Alaska.

Specifically, the proposed rule requires general aviation pilots to electronically transmit notice of arrival and departure data and other passenger manifest information to CBP via the internet-based Electronic Advance Passenger Information System (e-APIS) or another electronic medium. This information must be submitted one hour before departure. The pilot must then wait at the computer to receive approval to depart. I have strong concerns about the feasibility of this system for pilots departing remote areas of Alaska and Canada, many of which do not have internet access.

General aviation is a vital part of Alaska's economy and infrastructure, and planes of all sizes frequently make trips to and from Canada. Currently, private pilots are able to report required arrival information to CBP via radio, telephone or through the Federal Aviation Administration flight notification system. The proposed rule is a drastic change from this long standing procedure. Accordingly, I believe that Alaskan pilots should be allowed more time to examine the new rule.

I encourage the Department of Homeland Security to extend the current comment period for another 60 days, to close on January 18, 2008. This would provide interested parties with the opportunity to fully assess the impact of the proposed rule and suggest practical amendments or alternatives. Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski
United States Senator

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