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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 bring your attention to a very concerning news report which was recently featured on WSB-TV, Atlanta's local ABC affiliate. The report detailed undercover videos collected by a whistleblower employed by Gate Gourmet, which is currently the world's largest airline catering company.

In these videos, which were taken at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta, the whistleblower captures employees using their security badges to allow what appear to be unauthorized individuals access to secure areas. The videos also show employees of Gate Safe, Gate Gourmet's sister security company, allowing unsearched, unsealed carts through security and on to passenger airplanes. Under current law, catering carts must be thoroughly searched and sealed before they are allowed into secure areas. Despite this requirement, the whistleblower was able to show himself bringing contraband (in this case, orange juice containers he brought from offsite) onto passenger airplanes with relative ease using what should be secured carts.

Gate Gourmet claims that these videos do not capture their full security process and as a result, should not be used as evidence that the company is operating outside of federal law. However, the numerous offenses documented by these videos are so egregious that they call into question the security procedures at every domestic airport. While the Transportation Security Administration has begun an investigation of the allegations raised by this news report, as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I believe that it is necessary to hold a full Committee hearing on this matter as soon as possible. It would only take one serious security breach to produce devastating results - we must ensure that this issue is addressed in a swift and effective manner.

Sincerely,



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

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