

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 6, 2007

W. Ralph Basham, Commissioner
United States Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Basham:

As Colorado's U.S. Senators, we are very concerned with the lack of sufficient Customs and Border Protection staffing at Denver International Airport to handle current and future flights.

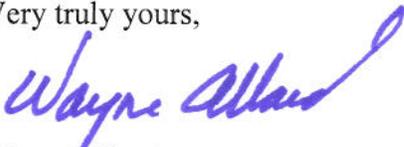
As a result of actions taken by the Departments of State and Transportation, Denver Airport has seen a significant increase in international flights. This is one of the only hub airports in this country that has two carriers, Frontier Airlines and United Airlines, that are expanding international operations to meet market demand. Frontier has become the fastest growing "low fare" carrier serving Mexico and is now looking to bring its service and pricing to Denver markets serving Central America.

We further emphasize that in August of this year, Denver Airport recorded a 7% increase in traffic over last year. This made August the second-busiest month ever at Denver Airport trailing only July of this year.

As a result of the Customs staffing problem, it is our understanding that carriers have been told that they cannot operate flights at Denver Airport that they plan to operate in the busy 2007-2008 holiday season although those flights have been operated in similar time periods in the past. This is contradictory to plans for the continued growth of the airport, and is unacceptable for the carriers at the airport, our constituents, and increased international demand. If this problem is not quickly resolved, flights will have to be cancelled and travel plans for thousands of people planning holiday travel will be interrupted. At the same time, we understand that other airports continue to have sufficient Customs staffing.

We ask to immediately allow flights scheduled for 2007 to continue to operate and to advise us what steps you will take to supplement existing staffing levels.

Very truly yours,



Wayne Allard
U.S. Senate



Ken Salazar
U.S. Senate