MAXINE WATERS MEMBER OF CONGRESS 43RD DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE:
FINANCIAL SERVICES
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515-0535

October 17, 2014

PLEASE REPLY TO:
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Ms. Gina Marie Lindsey Executive Director Los Angeles World Airports 1 World Way Los Angeles, CA 90045

Dear Ms. Lindsey,

I write to request a meeting to discuss Ebola screening and response protocols at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX).

There is growing concern in the community about the threat that Ebola poses to public health. Organizations representing diverse constituencies such as airport police officers, flight attendants and nurses have contacted my office to express their concerns. Given the potential for the spread of Ebola through air travel, it is critical that officials in the community surrounding LAX understand the procedures that are being followed at LAX to protect passengers, employees, and the community.

I therefore request a meeting to review the current procedures being undertaken at LAX to screen passengers for Ebola and to respond in the event that an infected passenger is identified. The meeting should include officials responsible for the development and implementation of Ebola screening and response protocols at LAX, including yourself and appropriate officials representing Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA), the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). It is my intention to invite the mayors of the cities surrounding LAX as well as representatives of key LAX stakeholders.

As you know, LAX plays a critical role in our local and national economy and serves as a popular destination or transfer point for millions of domestic and international travelers. It is crucial that we work together to effectively screen passengers for Ebola and protect public health, while ensuring that LAX can continue to be a safe and welcoming destination for travelers from around the world.

Sincerely,

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security

Wine Water

The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Secretary of Health and Human Services

R. Gil Kerlikowske, Commissioner, Customs and Border Protection Dr. Tom Frieden, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention