

NBTA Applauds Progress on FAST Redress Act

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The National Business Travel Association (NBTA) applauds the U.S. House Committee on Homeland Security Subcommittee on Transportation Security and Infrastructure Protection for approving by voice vote H.R. 4179, the FAST Redress Act of 2007.

The move comes after NBTA submitted the attached letter to the leadership of the Committee and the Subcommittee. The FAST Redress Act now goes to the full Committee, and NBTA is urging that the Committee send it to the full U.S. House of Representatives for consideration.

The FAST Redress Act represents much needed improvements to air travel security watch list matching process currently performed by the airlines. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and airlines work in partnership to check passenger names against various government lists. While DHS has implemented improvements to the process, most notably the DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, H.R. 4179 represents necessary legislation to ensure that innocent travelers have a quick and efficient mechanism to resolve watch list 'hits' that inconvenience them. Affected travelers may not be able to check in ahead of a flight online and may be subject to secondary screening at the TSA checkpoint. Frequent business travelers experience these problems far too often and are particularly in need of an effective system to resolve false positives. The FAST Redress Act would not only streamline the process of redress for all DHS's component agencies, but also require that DHS send a 'cleared list' of individuals who have voluntarily gone through the redress process.

NBTA supports the DHS TRIP program but also recognizes that the FAST Redress Act is good legislation that will ensure that travelers who voluntarily give information to the government to resolve watch list problems are not wrongly misidentified again.

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