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COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY
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Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member
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King Statement on Homeland Security Committee Democrats’ Opposition to Adding Guantanamo Detainees to “No Fly List”

Washington, D.C. (Thursday, May 14, 2009)—U.S. Rep. Peter T. King (R-NY), Ranking Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, released the following statement today following the full committee markup of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Authorization Act.

During the markup, Republican Member Mark Souder (IN) offered an amendment to require current Guantanamo detainees be placed on TSA’s “no fly list.” Democrat members of the Committee then weakened the Republican provision to give the President the final say as to whether or not Guantanamo detainees should be added to the “no fly list.”

“The Guantanamo detainee issue is the most pressing homeland security issue that we face today,” King said. “Just yesterday before this very Committee, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano admitted that she is working to determine ‘what sorts of protections would be needed on the homeland side if a [Guantanamo] inmate were ultimately to be released to the homeland.’”

“Mr. Souder’s amendment to place Guantanamo detainees on the ‘no fly list’ was a common sense provision that should have been approved as offered. I was surprised and dismayed that Committee Democrats opposed this provision to protect Americans. The Democrats today voted to allow the President to make the ‘no fly list’ decision despite the fact that the Obama Administration has admitted to having no plan for what will happen to Guantanamo detainees after they close the facility.

“Most Americans do not want these dangerous terrorists in their neighborhoods; Americans certainly shouldn’t be forced to sit next to them on a commercial airliner.”

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