

Opening Statement of Ranking Member Kathleen Rice (D-NY)

Subcommittee on Transportation Security

Subcommittee Markup

July 23, 2015

Before addressing these bills, I want to note that Administrator Neffenger, who was recently confirmed to lead the Transportation Security Administration, will appear before the Full Committee next week, on July 29th.

As we consider legislation to reform TSA programs, I am eager to hearing about the new Administrator's priorities and plans for improving TSA.

This Subcommittee is poised to be a constructive partner to the new Administrator, as the legislation we have advanced and are considering today provide a roadmap for areas that warrant timely attention.

I know there is a broad agreement, on both sides of the aisle, that we have a lot of work to do in order to make TSA the security agency that Congress envisioned and the American people deserve.

That said, it is important that we seek out opportunities to incorporate Administrator Neffenger's vision and insights into the legislation we consider.

Today's markup represents a beginning of that process—and I hope that our consideration of Chairman Katko's Committee Print of the "Transportation Security Administration Reform and Improvement Act of 2015" will be a bipartisan and collaborative process moving forward.

I also support the other two measures under consideration today -- H.R. 3102, the "Airport Access Control Security Improvement Act of 2015" and H.R. 3144, the "Partners for Aviation Security Act."