



Committee on
HOMELAND SECURITY
Chairman Peter T. King

Opening Statement

December 8, 2011

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Statement of Chairman Mike Rogers (R-AL)

**Subcommittee on Transportation Security
Committee on Homeland Security**

**Hearing on "A Review of Passenger Screening Technology at U.S.
Airports"**

**December 8, 2011
Remarks as Prepared**

I would like to welcome everyone to this hearing and thank our distinguished witnesses for being here. We look forward to your testimony and greatly appreciate your time.

The purpose of this hearing is to examine the technology that is currently operated by TSA at passenger screening checkpoints in U.S. airports.

Congress has appropriated millions of dollars over the last several years to support TSA's plans for updating and improving technology in the field.

Some of these plans, including the deployment of the infamous "puffer machines" and certain shoe scanning equipment, turned out to be poorly

planned and poorly managed investments that did not add to our overall security.

To ensure these types of technology gaffes do not burden taxpayers in the future, this Subcommittee continues to conduct oversight on procurement reform and recently held a series of hearings with representatives from the private sector and the Department on this topic.

Although checkpoint screening represents only one of TSA's many layers of security, it is one layer we cannot afford to get wrong. Now more than ever, it is imperative that TSA continue to develop new and innovative technology in an effort to combat emerging threats to aviation. This hearing is an opportunity to discuss technology capabilities and gaps, and work together toward finding appropriate solutions.

With that I now recognize the Ranking Member of the Subcommittee, the gentle lady from Texas, Ms. Jackson-Lee for an opening statement.