



One Hundred Eighteenth Congress
Committee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 03, 2023

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Christopher A. Wray
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
935 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20535

The Honorable David Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
6595 Springfield Center Drive
Springfield, VA 20598-6005

Dear Director Wray and Administrator Pekoske:

On March 1, 2023, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced that TSA officers prevented an explosive device from being loaded onto a flight at Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE).¹ The suspect, Mark Muffley, was arrested on Monday, February 27, 2023, by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and charged with possessing an explosive device in an airport and attempting to have placed an explosive device on an aircraft.²

According to court records, on February 27, 2023, the suspect checked in a suitcase at the Allegiant airline counter at ABE.³ Prior to the suitcase being loaded into the cargo area of the Allegiant aircraft, TSA officers screened the suitcase. Upon screening the suitcase, TSA officers were alerted to the contents and proceeded with a physical inspection. During the inspection, a small device with two fuses and a concealed powder mixture suspected to be explosive material was discovered, though the device was reportedly not operational. TSA contacted the FBI to examine the explosive device and assist in the identification of the suspect. The FBI arrested the suspect later that day.

¹ Press Release, Transportation Security Administration, *TSA officers prevent explosive device from being loaded on plane at Lehigh Valley International Airport*, (Mar. 1, 2023) at <https://www.tsa.gov/news/press/releases/2023/03/01/tsa-officers-prevent-explosive-device-being-loaded-plane-lehigh>.

² Criminal Complaint, United States of America v. Mark Muffley, United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania (Feb. 27, 2023).

³ *Id.*

To better understand the actions taken by TSA to secure the explosive device and ensure the safety of passengers within the airport, as well as the progress and extent of the FBI's investigation, please provide a briefing to the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than March 16, 2023.

To schedule the briefing or if you have any questions about this request, please ask your staff to contact Homeland Security Committee staff at (202) 226-8417. Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Green, MD
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security



Carlos A. Gimenez
Chairman
Subcommittee on Transportation
and Maritime Security



Shri Thanedar
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Transportation
and Maritime Security



August Pfluger
Chairman
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence



Seth Magaziner
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Counterterrorism,
Law Enforcement, and Intelligence

cc: The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security