

POLICY RESOLUTION PR-3-06
TITLE: TSA SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

WHEREAS, electronic baggage screening was mandated to be in place by the end of 2002, but not fully funded; and

WHEREAS, in order to meet that deadline airports often faced two or more marginally acceptable solutions, in lobby bag screening or building in-line baggage makeup areas “behind the wall”; and

WHEREAS, without the time to redesign and build new baggage makeup areas the Electronic Detection System (EDS) and Explosive Trace Detection (ETD) units were placed in the lobby to provide electronic bag screening. This was a “make do” solution that was never envisioned to be the permanent solution. Over three years later, many of these units are still in place. Continued in-lobby EDS/ETD is not practical from the airport's point of view. When located in the lobby, long screening lines and the sheer bulk of the equipment conflict with passenger check in and reduce passenger throughput, especially during peak periods. The congestion makes it more difficult to meet fire safety codes and frequently results in higher maintenance costs. Further, the in-lobby location of this function interferes with renovation planning and construction; and

WHEREAS, some airports have redesigned and/or rebuild baggage makeup areas at significant cost to accommodate in-line screening. Despite numerous promises from TSA, only a few airports have been compensated for the capital investment they took it upon themselves to make; and

WHEREAS, airports across the nation acted in good faith to front funds to build TSA approved, efficient and effective in-line solutions, but have yet to be reimbursed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Congress fully fund in-line screening; eliminate lobby screening in all Category 1 and X airports; and reimburse airports that have already made the investment to accommodate in-line screening based on promises from the federal government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that airports should not be required to subsidize this baggage screening mandate based on unfulfilled promises.