

DONALD S. BEYER JR .  
8TH DISTRICT, VIRGINIA

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY  
JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE  
(VICE-CHAIR)

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-4608**

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
1119 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-4376

DISTRICT OFFICE  
1901 N MOORE STREET  
SUITE 1108  
ARLINGTON, VA 22209

April 7, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security (DHS)  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

I am concerned about the operational safety of our airports. Until there is a vaccine, and while our airports remain operational, it is imperative that DHS take every step possible to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

Consistent, continued reports from constituents reveal the failure of U.S. airports to adopt basic mitigation protocols, such as enforcing social distancing, implementing temperature checks for travelers, providing guidance on how to self-quarantine for exiting travelers, and protective equipment for staff. These simple steps can help contain the spread of this virus in America as well as internationally, save countless lives, and alleviate the strain on our nation's overworked health care system in the weeks to come.

While air travel has slowed to a trickle during the crisis, effective and consistent protocols will be necessary for the return of the airline industry and the flying public. Quite simply, DHS must take and enforce the necessary precautions to protect travelers, airport staff, and airline staff. This pandemic will continue for some time, but air travel is and will continue to be necessary for the economy. In order to ensure the success of our ability to combat this virus, we must have the effective and enforced protocols in place now.

Given that, please indicate what steps DHS is taking to enforce social distancing at airports and what efforts are being employed to keep travelers, airline staff, and airport staff safe. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

