

# Holiday Travel

## The Way To Better Security In The Air

by *Richard Altomare*

(NAPSA)—With the holiday travel season, more and more people are thinking about travel safety. While Congress is to be commended for passing the Aviation and Transportation Security Act quickly, that act, unfortunately, falls short of addressing a major security problem, as well as the costs associated with the bags transported by the airlines.



**Richard  
Altomare**

I am personally urging Congress to contemplate ways to help enhance the real security of travelers from terrorist attacks while improving the financial health of the airline industry by considering a new proposal.

I recently circulated a luggage security plan on Capitol Hill that includes a per-bag security charge to defray the costs of luggage inspection and providing incentives, in addition to lower fares, for passengers to ship bags in advance with parcel services. The airline industry transports nearly three times more bags than they do passengers. Encouraging travelers to ship their bags prior to their departure dates will let luggage be transported in a similar manner as the five billion parcels shipped annually by businesses and consumers.

Rather than having to take the baggage through the check-in points and security lines, passengers planning an upcoming trip

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could use the new procedure and ship their luggage in advance to reach their destination in time for their arrival. While travelers can ship their bags directly with private carriers, this solution allows for their collective bargaining power to be leveraged for lower costs, faster service, greater security and exceptional customer service for delayed bags.

A reduction in passenger baggage lessens the opportunity for infiltration of terrorist devices on planes, and hence reduces the possibility of terrorist attacks. The likelihood of attacks is further reduced by lack of information on the transportation mode of the baggage.

Tell your Federal legislators what you think of my plan by writing to the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510 and the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. To learn more about or to request a copy of a white paper on this issue visit [www.usxp.com](http://www.usxp.com).

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