



*Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo  
Fourteenth District  
California*

October 8, 2002

The Honorable Norman Mineta  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Mineta,

The terrorist attacks underscored the critical need to increase security at our airports and I fully support measures that ensure the safety of travelers.

It is my understanding from recent news reports that a number of people have been detained and prevented from boarding an airplane because their names were included in the "No Fly Watch List," authorized in last year's *Aviation and Transportation Security Act*. The list was created to raise a red flag when suspected terrorists attempt to board an airplane. However, some of the individuals detained and prevented from boarding their flight are political activists, not suspected terrorists.

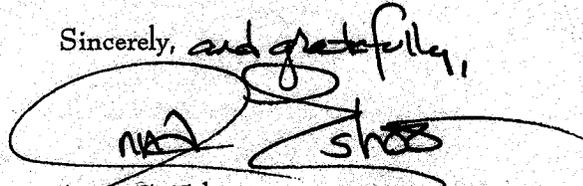
News reports have confirmed that several agencies contribute names and are able to have access to the list, however, these agencies refuse to describe the criteria used to determine who is included on the list. This lack of transparency is very disturbing and I believe it raises very important questions:

- What is the criteria being used to determine who is included on the list?
- Which agency maintains the list?
- What agencies contribute names to the list?
- Who has access to the list?

I'm also very concerned that the list presents significant overreach and will effect the rights guaranteed by our Constitution to every citizen. While I recognize the need to protect the procedure of certain security measures, the "No Fly Watch List" raises serious questions and the lack of information surrounding it is equally disturbing.

I respectfully request that you make available the criteria used to determine who is included on the "No Fly Watch List," the agencies who contribute and use the list, and what safeguards are being taken to ensure that individuals' civil rights are not violated. I thank you in advance for your full cooperation and assistance on these most serious of issues.

Sincerely, *and gratefully,*

  
Anna G. Eshoo  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable James M. Loy  
Under Secretary of Transportation for Security