



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Global Gateway Alliance Statement Praising Senator Schumer's Announcement of Hundreds of New Customs Officers at Newark and JFK international Airports**

NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY – The Global Gateway Alliance released the following statement today praising U.S. Senator Charles Schumer's announcement of hundreds of new Customs officers at Newark and JFK international airports. The announcement comes after a GGA study revealed that JFK and Newark had the longest customs wait times in the country last year, with passengers left waiting for an average of two hours during peak times.

"This announcement puts into action what we've been calling for – increased Customs staffing at JFK and Newark, the busiest international gateway airports in the country, to ease hours-long Customs wait times that have hurt our region and economy. Bringing automated customs kiosks to JFK has already helped reduce wait times in the initial months they've been in operation, including by over 50 percent at Terminal 4. Senator Schumer's announcement is a big step toward addressing the problem for the long term – the greater staffing power coupled with these new technologies will mean a win-win for passengers and our region's economy."

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### **ABOUT GGA**

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA) was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region's airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit [www.globalgatewayalliance.org](http://www.globalgatewayalliance.org). Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA\_NYNY and 'Like' the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA's board of directors includes: Joe Sitt (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities; Stuart Appelbaum, President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; Chris Giamo, Regional President for TD Bank; Dan Glickman former Congressman and U.S. Agriculture Secretary; David Hopkins, Senior Director of Aviation at the New York City Economic Development Corporation; Jared Kushner, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; George Miranda, Teamsters' International Vice President; Mitchell Moss, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; William Rudin, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; Joseph Spinnato, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; Alvin S. Trenk, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; Peter Ward, President of the

Hotel Trades Council on New York; Kathryn Wylde, President of the Partnership for New York City, and Tim Zagat, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.