



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GGA: FEDERAL BUDGET WIN FOR NY/NJ AIRPORT SAFETY

New provision prevents TSA from dumping \$8 million in security costs onto NYC area airports

(NEW YORK NEW JERSEY): With the U.S. House of Representatives set to vote on the recently-proposed federal budget, the Global Gateway Alliance today praised a new provision to require the Transportation Safety Administration to continue staffing airport security exit lanes.

The agreement blocks the TSA from hitting airports and passengers two times – first, by raising security fees and then by turning around and abandoning the costs associated staffing of exit lanes. Without the provision, the TSA was set to unload \$8 million in new costs onto already financially-strained New York and New Jersey airports beginning January 1, 2014 – just weeks before a spike in security concerns associated with hosting the upcoming Super Bowl.

"When Republicans and Democrats in Washington can work together, it's good for our country. But when they can do the right thing by protecting passengers without placing additional burdens on our local airports, it's great for our airports and for more than 110 million passengers," said **GGA Chairman Joe Sitt**.

GGA Executive Director Stephen Sigmund added, "This is a common sense step and we're thrilled the TSA will step up to continue to protect the most vital airport system in the country."

Earlier this week, the GGA sent a letter to TSA Administrator John Pistole demanding TSA reverse its plan to eliminate federal agents at airport security lane exits. A copy of the letter can be found here:

<http://www.globalgatewayalliance.org/sites/default/files/files/LETTER%2012%208%2013%20TSA%20Exit%20Lanes.pdf>

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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. Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA_NYNJ 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.