

KATHY CASTOR
11TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE, AND
CONSUMER PROTECTION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATIONS,
TECHNOLOGY, AND THE INTERNET

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Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0911

February 3, 2011

Mr. Thomas S. Winkowski
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Field Operations
CBP Headquarters
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20229

Re: Support of Tampa International Airport Request for Approval to Accept Flights to and from Cuba

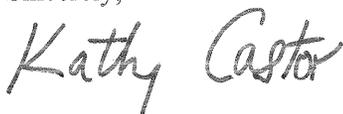
Dear Mr. Winkowski:

I urge the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expeditiously approve the application of Tampa International Airport to accept flights to and from Cuba. President Obama's recent announcement regarding travel to Cuba has been welcome news for my neighbors. My office hears the personal struggles of those with limited travel opportunities to Cuba, and the addition of additional entry/exit points to Cuba will lower costs and lift an unnecessary burden for many families when traveling to and from the island nation.

The Tampa Bay area has one of the largest Cuban-American populations in the nation and I am pleased that Tampa International Airport (TPA) is one of the first in line to apply for approval to accept flights to and from Cuba under the new expanded eligibility. It appears that TPA meets all eligibility requirements as laid out in the new regulations. They currently meet all existing standards for accommodating international flights and have up-to-date staffing, equipment, and facilities to process international traffic. In addition, they have already identified licensed carrier providers ready to provide service between Tampa and Cuba, with the opportunity for more providers to add services in the future.

I ask that you review Tampa International Airport's request for approval as quickly as possible. Thank you for your consideration and please do not hesitate to contact me at (202)225-3376 or (813)871-2817.

Sincerely,



Kathy Castor
U.S. Representative
Florida - District 11