



Opening Statement
Congressman John T. Salazar
T&I Aviation Subcommittee Hearing
Update on Aviation Security
July 24, 2008

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for calling this hearing.

After many struggles in the past, I hope we're on track now with aviation security.

We've all stood in security lines at airports.

While not always a pleasant experience, we all realize security measures are necessary.

But they can also be efficient, respectful and courteous.

I look forward to hearing about the progress that has been made.

I also would like to thank Mr. Hawley for working with Denver airport on the screening problems they faced last year.

Mr. Hawley, as you'll recall, I sent a letter last year requesting your assistance at DIA.

At that time, the airport was experiencing the worst peak period wait times in the country.

Passengers were waiting between 35-55 minutes in line.

The airport was struggling to find solutions, but felt TSA was dragging its feet.

I'm happy to report that since sending that letter, Denver's security line wait times are down and the number of screeners is up.

They also have received better equipment—all 28 of their security lanes now have state-of-the-art scanners.

And I believe Denver was the first large airport in the country to be 100% ATiX operational. (note: ATiX means Advanced Threat Identification X-ray)

I also know that DIA is one of seven airports to participate in TSA's employee screening pilot.

And I've been told by airport officials that the pilot has been successful.

With that, I thank the Chairman, and I yield back.