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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

May 18, 2010

The Honorable Barack H. Obama  
The President  
The White House  
Washington DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

I applaud your nomination of Mr. John Pistole to head the Transportation Security Administration (TSA). I have worked with Mr. Pistole in his current capacity at the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) and believe he will bring much-needed stability and leadership to TSA, which has not had a full-time administrator for nearly 17 months.

It is troubling that since its creation following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, TSA has had six administrators, averaging terms of just 1.5 years. This long and unnecessary vacancy could have been mitigated, I believe, by ensuring professional leadership for the position of TSA administrator. The administrator should be an experienced career law enforcement professional, like Mr. Pistole, rather than a political nominee.

As you know, I have written you and members of your administration numerous times since January urging you to support four bipartisan proposals to strengthen our national security, including making the TSA administrator position a 10-year term of service. To date, none of these proposals have been adopted -- in spite of the recent attempted terrorist attacks on Christmas Day and in Times Square in New York City. I would appreciate an explanation about why proposals made by members of Congress continue to be downright ignored by this administration.

I urge your strong support for the enclosed legislation, H.R. 4459, that I have introduced to establish a 10-year term of office for any individual appointed to serve as the administrator of the TSA, akin to the appointment process for the director of the FBI. This will ensure that nominees to serve as TSA administrator will continue to be individuals of Mr. Pistole's caliber.

I believe a 10-year term for the administrator of TSA will help provide the agency with the qualified, long-term and independent leadership it needs at this time and strengthen our nation's security by ensuring stable leadership within the Department of Homeland Security.

Please let me know how I may assist you in this effort.

Best wishes.

Sincerely,

Frank R. Wolf  
Member of Congress

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111TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4459

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a 10-year term of office for any individual appointed as the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 13, 2010

Mr. WOLF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To amend title 49, United States Code, to establish a 10-year term of office for any individual appointed as the Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration), and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF**  
4 **HOMELAND SECURITY (TRANSPORTATION SE-**  
5 **CURITY ADMINISTRATION).**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 114(b) of title 49, United  
7 States Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 “(b) APPOINTMENT; TERM OF OFFICE.—

1           “(1) APPOINTMENT.—The head of the Adminis-  
2           tration shall be the Assistant Secretary of Homeland  
3           Security (Transportation Security Administration).  
4           The Assistant Secretary shall be appointed by the  
5           President, by and with the advice and consent of the  
6           Senate.

7           “(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Assistant Sec-  
8           retary must—

9                     “(A) be a citizen of the United States; and

10                    “(B) have experience in a field directly re-  
11                   lated to transportation or security.

12           “(3) TERM OF OFFICE.—The term of office of  
13           an individual appointed as the Assistant Secretary  
14           shall be 10 years. An Assistant Secretary may not  
15           serve more than one 10-year term.”.

16           (b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 114 of such  
17           title is amended—

18                   (1) in subsection (a) by striking “Department  
19                   of Transportation” and inserting “Department of  
20                   Homeland Security”;

21                   (2) in the heading for subsection (m)(1) by  
22                   striking “UNDER SECRETARY” and inserting “AS-  
23                   SISTANT SECRETARY”; and

24                   (3) by striking “Under Secretary” each place it  
25                   appears and inserting “Assistant Secretary”.

1       (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
2 this section shall apply to any individual appointed as the  
3 Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security (Transportation Security Administration) after the date of enactment of this Act.

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