

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 18, 2019

The Honorable David P. Pekoske
Administrator
Transportation Security Administration
601 South 12th Street
Arlington, VA 20598-6001

Dear Administrator Pekoske:

We write in support of Eugene Airport's (EUG) request for additional explosive detection system (EDS) machines to enhance aviation security and increase Transportation Security Administration (TSA) efficiency out of EUG.

In recent years, EUG has experienced tremendous passenger growth. Last year, EUG enplaned more than 571,000 passengers, an increase of more than eight percent from 2017. This marks the eighth straight record year of growth in total enplanements.

During this time, EUG completed a capital improvement project which moved TSA baggage screening operations from a congested lobby to a protected site that accommodates a mini in-line baggage system. The new setup was specifically designed to accommodate up to five EDS machines in order to keep pace with anticipated growth in air traffic and to maintain airline competitiveness. While record growth has continued and the necessary layout is in place, EUG has had only three EDS machines since 2013.

During this record period of growth, EUG has worked diligently with its airlines to identify solutions when issues arise with the existing setup, but difficulties persist and will only continue to increase as the airport sees additional passenger growth and airline investment. United Airlines, Delta Air Lines, and American Airlines have all been placed at competitive disadvantages as a result of the limitations of three EDS machines, and with United Airlines having recently opened additional daily frequencies to Los Angeles International Airport, there are strong concerns that these issues will only be exacerbated in the near future. Failure to take appropriate action could stifle airline investment and, ultimately, continued growth in southwest Oregon's air traffic.

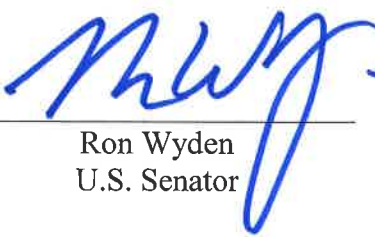
We ask that TSA give EUG full and fair consideration of their request for additional EDS machines. We also ask that TSA properly ensure that the formula for determining EDS machine allotments account for small airport hubs with mini in-line baggage systems like EUG.

Thank you for your prompt attention and consideration of this issue, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that airports in Oregon and across the country are secured in the most efficient and effective manner possible.

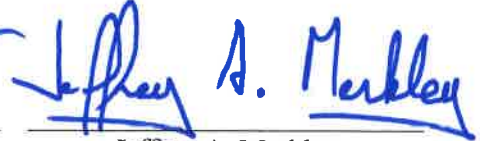
Sincerely,



Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress



Ron Wyden
U.S. Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
U.S. Senator