

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

February 2, 2004

The Honorable Tom Ridge
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Naval Security Station
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW.
Washington, DC 20393

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to call upon you to order the TSA Federal Security Director in Seattle to immediately rescind all recent management promotions of TSA personnel at Sea-Tac Airport, and to start the entire selection process over again. Clearly, the management promotion process has been tainted and nothing less than a complete reversal can hope to restore confidence in TSA, and the people chosen to lead management security efforts at Sea-Tac.

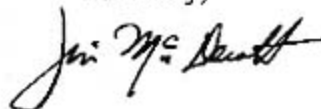
On Sunday, February 1, 2004, The Seattle Times published portions of an interview with Mr. Robert Blunk, TSA Federal Security Director, in Seattle: "The human-resources contractor did lose track of some applications, Blunk said. But he said he believed those who had been promoted were well-qualified." This admission by your director is the smoking gun, which proves that some TSA employees interested in being considered for management promotion were denied any access to the process. An investigation may reveal other improprieties.

Recently, hundreds of TSA screeners at Sea-Tac contacted me and presented a petition outlining a long list of allegations against the TSA. As I told the workers, I take these allegations seriously. Now, your director in Seattle has acknowledged that at least one allegation expressed by TSA workers is true. That cannot stand. The credibility of your agency and TSA leadership hangs in the balance.

Neither TSA employees nor the general public can believe in an agency which cannot fairly and fully administer a promotion process to ensure that the best people, not the best liked by senior leaders, are in charge of security at our nation's airports.

Please contact me immediately to follow up on my call for action and to advise on the status of an investigation into all the allegations presented by employees. I expect to be kept informed and involved in a timely manner.

Sincerely,



Jim McDermott
Member of Congress