

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 17, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
Department of Transportation  
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable Jen Easterly  
Director  
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20023

Dear Secretary Buttigieg and Director Easterly:

As Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation's Subcommittee on Tourism, Trade, and Export Promotion and a member of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, I write to express concern and request information regarding the recent distributed denial of service (DDoS) cyberattacks targeting multiple U.S. airport websites.

According to reports, on October 10, 2022, the pro-Russia hacker group Killnet targeted 14 airports in the United States with a coordinated series of DDoS cyberattacks, resulting in service interruptions to several airport websites. This incident is indicative of a broader trend of cyberattacks on American transportation infrastructure, which are escalating in frequency and severity. While, reportedly, this incident did not directly impact airport operations, I am concerned that our nation's aviation ecosystem remains vulnerable to debilitating cyberattacks, especially as malicious Russian state-sponsored cyber actors threaten additional cyberattacks on the nation's critical infrastructure. This vulnerability potentially threatens the smooth operation of an air travel system key to tourism-dependent economies across the country. Therefore, I request the following information:

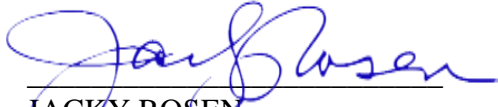
- Can you confirm that the October 10, 2022 cyberattack did not result in any disruption of services, including airline operations, airport operations, or airport control?
- How are you coordinating with potentially impacted entities, and does that coordination include technical assistance?
- Are you aware of additional and immediate cyber threats to the nation's aviation subsector?
- How are you working with airports and airlines to proactively identify and mitigate cyber risks? What steps are you taking to ensure that future cyberattacks do not directly disrupt airline or airport services, including travelers' ability to interface with airports and airlines?
- As the Co-Sector Risk Management Agencies for the nation's critical transportation infrastructure, how are the Departments of Transportation and Homeland Security collaborating to enhance the security and resilience of the nation's aviation ecosystem overall?

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Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



JACKY ROSEN  
United States Senator