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February 11, 2004

The Honorable John Mica
Chairman, House Subcommittee on Aviation
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Subcommittee Hearing on Progress of Passenger and Baggage Screening Efforts

Dear Chairman Mica:

I am writing to express concern about current security screening procedures for air passengers traveling to U.S. events and destinations. My concern stems from the feedback of attendees returning from the 2004 International CES. The International CES is the largest technology tradeshow in the world, which is managed and produced by the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA). While passenger and baggage screening should be thorough to ensure passenger safety, CEA believes that overall security screening processes should not delay passenger travel to the point that they become a disincentive for Americans to travel throughout the country.

With some 130,000 attendees traveling to and returning from Las Vegas, NV from January 8-11, we received hundreds of complaints from attendees with regard to the delays caused by security screening procedures at McCarran International Airport. Most attendees experienced three to five hour delays in getting through security on January 11th with many missing their scheduled flights. As a result, a number of attendees have written CEA stating that they would not attend CES again due to the security delays at McCarran Airport.

Such comments are of grave concern as our trade show, like many others, helps fuel our industry, fills hotel rooms, attracts international visitors and boosts the economy. While the high volume of attendees and exhibitors traveling to and from Las Vegas present many logistical and transportation challenges, such challenges should not act as a deterrent for people looking to attend CES in the future.

We thank the Subcommittee for the opportunity to provide input on our experiences at the 2004 International CES and urge the subcommittee to resolve the problems of security check-in delays so that airline passengers are able to travel in a safe and timely fashion.

Sincerely

Gary Shapiro
President and CEO