



ALLEGHENY COUNTY AIRPORT AUTHORITY  
PITTSBURGH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT  
ALLEGHENY COUNTY AIRPORT

February 7, 2017

Good Morning Chairmen Aument, Chairman Haywood and members of the committee.

On behalf of Pittsburgh International Airport, (PIT) I appreciate the opportunity to address the committee as part of this public hearing. I apologize for not being able to be present at the actual committee meeting, but appreciate the opportunity for written testimony.

I am Vince Gastgeb, Vice-President of Government, Corporate and Community Affairs for the Allegheny County Airport Authority which owns and operates Pittsburgh International Airport and Allegheny County Airport.

As an airport and also as an entity working with other Pennsylvania Airports and the State Aviation Council, we ask consideration and a working environment with you to move Pennsylvania into compliance with the Federal Real ID Act. Pennsylvania residents not being able to use a PA issued driver's license as of January 22, 2018 will prove to be an ordeal and significant impediment to board a plane through TSA security.

Due to Pennsylvania's passage of Act 38 in 2012 as a prohibition and non-participation to The REAL ID Act, as an airport, there is concern for the traveling public and the inability to manage a potential situation that cannot be messaged or perhaps controlled.

As an alternative identification, some passengers do have approved passports, but these represent the vast minority of those who travel. As a result, those needing a PA Driver's license to travel will comprise the most travel-needy people of our society which will result with their inability to travel. We want to work with our friends within State Government to find ways to have the PA Driver's License function in the manner that currently exists in PA.

PIT has had an increase of nonstop destinations, new carriers and increased passengers over the last year. In 2017, Air Transport World Recognized PIT with the high honor of the Airport of the Year award, a designation covering the whole globe. PIT has a mix of business and leisure passengers, with the leisure passenger making up half of the 8.3 million passengers. Approximately 4.15 million passengers departed from PIT in 2016 of which the vast majority use their driver's licenses for identification when going through TSA Security. As of now and in theory, out of state residents would be able to use their drivers licenses at PIT while PA residents would not be in compliance.

Senate Bill 133, as introduced by Sen. Kim Ward, allows the focus to be put on finding ways to help our collective constituents and eliminates the inconvenience and problems the prohibition would bring. We stand committed to work together and put the emphasis back on our passengers and using airports as gateways for travel, commerce and economic generation.

Thank You,

Vince Gastgeb  
Vice President, Government & Community Affairs