



United States Department of Transportation
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Musante
335 David Drive
Alamo, CA 94507

JAN 17 2003

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Musante:

Thank you for your November 20, 2002, letter concerning your being selected for intensive airport security screening each time you travel on Alaska Airlines.

The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) does require each airline use a "Watch List" comprised of names provided by Federal law enforcement agencies. When an airline has a reservation with a passenger name that matches or is similar to one on the "Watch List" the airline must follow certain established procedures to clear the individual. We searched the "Watch List" and although your names do not appear on the list, there is a similarity to a name that is listed.

TSA is working to allow airlines to better capture information related to passengers that can be cleared on subsequent trips, once it is confirmed that there is not a full match to all identifying data provided on the "Watch List." This effort is in its early stages of development, and until appropriate procedures are in place, we ask for your continued patience during the screening process while we work to improve these procedures.

The screening process, in and of itself, is a personally intrusive process we all must go through in today's world of terror attacks and uncertainties as to when, where and by whom the next attack will take place. I realize that additional security measures may cause some inconvenience to the traveling public, but I believe the benefits of such measures far outweigh the inconvenience.

We regret any inconvenience that you and your wife may have experienced.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael D. Robinson", is written over a horizontal line.

Michael D. Robinson
Associate Under Secretary for
Aviation Security Operations