

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2309

April 28, 2016

The Honorable Peter Neffenger  
Administrator  
Transportation Security Administration  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
601 12<sup>th</sup> Street South  
Arlington, VA 22202

Dear Administrator Neffenger,

I write today to express serious concerns regarding reports of racial profiling of Somali-Americans by the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) Minneapolis-St. Paul regional office. The report alleges that an assistant security director was instructed to provide the names of Somali-American leaders visiting the TSA office so that those names could be referenced against national security databases for terrorist ties.

Minnesota is home to the nation's largest Somali-American population—a vibrant community that I'm proud to represent in the Senate. As you know, racial and ethnic profiling undermines trust in the authorities and causes resentment among targeted groups. I therefore request that you immediately open an investigation into these reports.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter, and I look forward to working with you to address it as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Franken", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Al Franken  
United States Senator