

Travel Promotion Act
H.R. 3232

Talking Points:

- Describe how important tourism is to your area – specifically international tourism. If you are an employer, explain how many tourism employees work at your facility.
- The TPA establishes an independent, non-profit corporation to develop a nationally coordinated promotion program to market the US as a travel destination and explain ever changing travel security rules:
 - 15 Member Board appointed by Secretary of Commerce
 - No compensation of Board members
 - Open meetings; annual audit required
 - Annual report to Congress via the Secretary of Commerce
 - Funding:
 - Establishes a fully automated electronic travel authorization system to collect information necessary for Secretary of Homeland Security to determine, in advance of travel, the eligibility of an alien to travel to the US under the Visa Waiver Program. Establishes \$10 Fee to use system. Fees collected go to funding TPA.
 - The Corporation may impose an annual assessment on US members of the international travel & tourism industry represented on the Board of the Corporation.
 - Matching funds from the private sector are required in order to receive ANY public funds – 100% match after start-up year. Start-up costs to be reimbursed to the Federal Government.
- Some 250 members of Congress have already signed on as co-sponsors of the bill. Republicans and Democrats.

How to contact your Congressman:

- Contact the Congressman at the District Office
- Explain that you are a *constituent*, and you wish to speak with the Congressman
- If the Congressman is not available, ask to speak to the staff person who handles tourism issues
- Ask if the Congressman is familiar with the TPA. If not, explain it.
- Ask the Congressman to co-sponsor the bill.
- Ask the Congressman to call for a hearing on the bill THIS TERM.