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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | April 6, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Presses TSA on Need for Safety Improvements and Efficiency at McCarran**  **(Washington, DC)** –Today, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) questioned Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Administrator and Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Peter Neffenger at a Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation hearing titled, “Transportation Security: Protecting Passengers and Freight.” During his questioning, Heller stressed the importance of sufficient staffing, both in number of TSA agents and trained canine units, to deliver greater efficiency at tourism hubs like the McCarran International Airport in Southern Nevada. Additionally, he advocated for proper screening to create a safe environment for airline passengers and local residents. Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m4B-3SZjFnc) or below to watch the video.   |  | | --- | | **Background:**  The McCarran International Airport is among the busiest airports in the country. The Clark County Department of Aviation reported an 8.9 percent increase in passenger traffic this past February relative to February of 2015, a total sum of 3.4 million passengers. Despite this growth, the number of TSA agents at the security checkpoints have decreased. TSA promised the processing rate would be maintained with ten canine units facilitating passengers through faster security. As of today, there is only one canine unit assigned to the airport permanently. In addition, every single day during February, TSA failed to meet its goal for passenger processing times. |   ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |