



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **STATEMENT OF GLOBAL GATEWAY ALLIANCE URGING CONGRESS TO PUT SAFETY FIRST AND PASS DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY BUDGET REAUTHORIZATION**

(NEW YORK-NEW JERSEY) – *The following is a statement released today by Global Gateway Alliance Chairman and Founder Joseph Sitt, urging Congress to pass the Department of Homeland Security budget reauthorization and avoid disruption in critical airport security infrastructure:*

“When Washington politics threaten passenger security and aviation commerce, it’s time to bury the hatchet. Congress must do its job and pass the Department of Homeland Security budget reauthorization, because if the clock runs out on funding this week, it will damage the safety of passengers, harm federal workers, and negatively impact our region’s economy.

“Plans to furlough 15 percent of the TSA workforce are already underway, and not only is it ludicrous to suggest that any of these workers are somehow 'nonessential,' but asking those left to work without pay while Congress continues to collect its paycheck defies reason. In addition, the delays that accompany furloughs come at a cost, leading to longer TSA and Customs lines, and fewer agents to screen passengers.

“It’s time for Congress to step up and prioritize our nation’s security, and avoid real and negative disruptions to the safety and efficiency of our airports.”

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### **ABOUT GGA**

Global Gateway Alliance (GGA) was established to address the major challenges facing the metropolitan region’s airports and related infrastructure that, if left unaddressed, will serve as a major impediment to the long-term growth of New York City and surrounding areas. By harnessing the expertise of leaders in business, government, academia, labor and other sectors, we seek to tackle these challenges head-on and serve as the leading advocate in an effort to improve our airports and facilitate the continued growth of the region. For more information regarding the Global Gateway Alliance, please visit [www.globalgatewayalliance.org](http://www.globalgatewayalliance.org). Follow GGA on Twitter @GGA\_NY NJ and ‘Like’ the organization on Facebook at <http://on.fb.me/UsqxGw>.

GGA’s board of directors includes: **Joseph Sitt** (Chairman), CEO, Thor Equities; **Stuart Appelbaum** (Vice President), President of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union; **Angelo Genova**, Founding Partner at Genova Burns Giantomasi Webster and a former New Jersey Commissioner of the Port Authority; **Chris Giamo**, Regional President for TD Bank; **David Hopkins**, Senior Director of Aviation at

the New York City Economic Development Corporation; **Jared Kushner**, Owner of Kushner Properties and the New York Observer; **George Miranda**, Teamsters' International Vice President; **Mitchell Moss**, Henry Hart Rice Professor of Urban Policy and Planning at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University; **William Rudin**, CEO of Rudin Management Company, Inc. and Chairman of ABNY; **Joseph Spinnato**, President of the Hotel Association of New York City; **Alvin S. Trenk**, Chairman and CEO of Air Pegasus Corp; **Peter Ward**, President of the Hotel Trades Council on New York; **Tom Wright**, Executive Director of the Regional Plan Association; **Kathryn Wylde**, President of the Partnership for New York City, and **Tim Zagat**, Co-Founder and Co-Chair of Zagat Survey.