

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 6, 2017

The Honorable John F. Kelly  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Kelly:

We write to you today in support of India's participation in Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Global Entry Program and urge you to expedite the implementation of the June 2016 bilateral memorandum of understanding to achieve this goal. Expanding Global Entry's expedited clearance process to pre-approved visitors from India, a critical strategic and trading partner of the United States, will help demonstrate our country's commitment to the Indo-Asia-Pacific region while improving our ability to screen potential threats against the U.S. homeland.

Leisure and business travelers from India have made a significant contribution to the U.S. economy and job creation. According to the U.S. Travel Association, every \$1 million spent by international visitors directly supported 6.6 jobs in the travel industry. Our country welcomed approximately 1.2 million Indian visitors in 2016 who spent \$13 billion, making India among the top ten largest markets for U.S. travel and tourism exports according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. With the U.S. currently capturing just 5.5 percent of the outbound Indian travel market, there is enormous growth potential. The U.S. Commerce Department's National Travel and Tourism Office projects visitor arrivals from India to the United States are on pace to grow by 72 percent through 2021. As a country, we can do more to attract these visitors and Global Entry membership is an important way to welcome them.

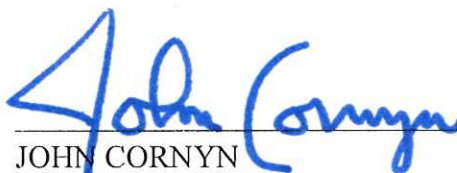
India's membership in Global Entry would not only provide its passport holders a smoother visit to the U.S. but also help make our country safer by enhancing bilateral law enforcement cooperation. Only after rigorous scrutiny and clearance by both countries will approved Indian travelers be extended the facility of expedited entry into the United States through automatic kiosks at U.S. airports. These procedures enhance security-related information sharing with the United States at a time when the threats we face are increasingly global in nature. Expansion of Global Entry to India will promote even closer security cooperation with the Indian authorities, who oversee some of the world's busiest airports and help direct CBP resources to higher-risk, unknown travelers and enforcement.

As 2017 marks U.S.-India Travel and Tourism Partnership Year, fully implementing this joint agreement would be a fitting gesture of our continued efforts to enhance the security and economic partnership between our two nations. We strongly support India's membership in CBP's Global Entry Program and urge the efforts towards this goal be accelerated to help ensure the best travel experience to strengthen the bonds between two great democracies. We also request an update on our engagement with your Indian counterparts on this issue.

Sincerely,



MAZIE K. HIRONO  
United States Senator



JOHN CORNYN  
United States Senator



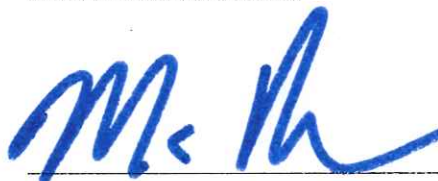
AMY KLOBUCHAR  
United States Senator



ROY BLUNT  
United States Senator



JEFFREY A. MERKLEY  
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO  
United States Senator



ROBERT P. CASEY, JR.  
United States Senator

cc: Kevin McAleenan, Acting U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner