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The Honorable Candice Miller Chairman, House Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee

The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee Ranking Member, Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee

The Honorable Loretta Sanchez Member, Border and Maritime Security Subcommittee

The Honorable Michael McCaul Chairman, House Homeland Security Committee

The Honorable Bennie Thompson
Ranking Member, House Homeland Security Committee

The Honorable Peter King Member, House Homeland Security Committee

Dear Honorable Members:

The members of the International Biometrics and Identification Association (IBIA) write to commend you for the introduction of H.R. 3141, The Biometric Exit Improvement Act of 2013. The bill resolves a vitally important aspect of our national security by fulfilling the 9/11 Commission recommendation and completing the integrated biometric entry and exit system envisioned by Congress under section 7208 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (8 USC 1365b).

IBIA strongly supports a comprehensive and effective mandatory exit system to enhance our national security and as such, we support H.R. 3141 as amended by the Manager's Amendment that will be offered at markup.

The mandatory exit program set forth in your legislation will fill a significant gap in our national security by ensuring our country knows, not only who has entered the country, but also that the person who entered departs in accordance with the provisions of his entry. It will also enable the Department of Homeland Security to deal with the visa stay problem by



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providing real-time information on overstays. As you know, most of the 9/11 hijackers were visa overstays and it has been estimated that 40% of all illegal aliens in the United States are visa overstays.

We are grateful that you and your colleagues recognize that a mandatory biometric exit in the United States is both feasible and cost effective and that you have set forth a phased-in timeline for implementation that is readily achievable. This pragmatic approach will allow the Department of Homeland Security to deploy the system to the highest need areas while placing the appropriate priority on the need for a realization of the system in the near term.

Empowering the Department of Homeland security to identify overstays in real time so that it may rapidly direct resources to the greatest threats to our national security is of the highest importance. We thank you for your bipartisan work to make the biometric exit program a reality. We look forward to continuing our dialogue with you and your colleagues as the bill moves forward.

Sincerely,

Tovah LaDier

IBIA Managing Director

Torah Laner