

# The Washington Post

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Dec. 14, 2005

Ms. Leslie Cupp  
The Office of U.S. Rep. Hal Rogers  
Washington, D.C.  
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VIA E-MAIL AND FAX: 202-225-0940

Dear Ms. Cupp:

Thank you for the assistance you have provided. We have a few outstanding questions for the congressman and your staff on issues we have been discussing for the past several weeks. We are requesting answers by the close of business Thursday, Dec. 15, at 5 p.m. They are:

- 1) Where and when were the Reveal fundraisers for HALPAC held?
- 2) Who organized the fundraisers?
- 3) Whose idea was it to hold each Reveal fundraiser for HALPAC?
- 4) What role did the congressman play in the contract that was awarded to Reveal?
- 5) Did the congressman discuss the contract with any officials at DHS, TSA or Reveal?
- 6) Did the congressman discuss the contract with any representatives of Reveal, including its lobbyists?
- 7) Did the congressman or any member of his staff urge companies to move into the district and offer them tax breaks or benefits? If so, which companies?
- 8) Did the congressman earmark or otherwise direct DHS S&T money to specific colleges or universities or the consortium in Kentucky? If so, to whom and how much?

Please acknowledge the receipt of this communication.

Best regards,

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CONGRESSMAN  
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## *Rogers Statement to the Washington Post*

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The following statement to the Washington Post is from U.S. Representative Harold “Hal” Rogers (KY-05):

“Before I met officials of Reveal, TSA selected the company and others to receive research and development funds to design and build smaller “next generation” explosive detection machines that could be used to search baggage for bombs and other weapons in the nation’s 438 airports.

After a rigorous inspection process conducted by TSA’s engineers and scientists, the Reveal machine was certified by TSA for use in airports. The machine was then deployed to several airports for field testing.

In an open competition with other companies, TSA awarded Reveal a contract to supply a quantity of its new machines, which will be installed at various airports. TSA was the sole decision maker for the R&D grant funding, certification and procurement of Reveal machines. I had no say in these decisions whatsoever.

Other companies are currently seeking certification of their own machines. I hope they are successful because our urgent need for small explosive detection machines cannot be filled by one company.

Until the Reveal systems were certified, the only explosive detection machines certified for checking baggage were huge, SUV-sized machines that operate most efficiently when installed in-line with the airport's baggage systems and conveyor belts. This type of machine is necessary in larger, high-volume airports. However, airports must be substantially remodeled to accommodate this large system. Early estimates of the cost to TSA for these modifications ran into the billions of dollars. That is where my interest lies, because the subcommittee I chair must fund TSA’s operations.

Like me, TSA believes that one way to avoid much of these costs is to develop smaller machines that can be placed at ticket counters in small and medium-sized airports, thereby avoiding substantial remodeling expenses. Many terminals within some larger airports could also use these machines.

In 2002, TSA conceived a policy for the possible acquisition and deployment of improved explosive detection machines and a new smaller machine for small and medium sized airports. TSA requested R&D funds of our subcommittee and they were provided in February 2003. They later requested funds to acquire the explosive detection machines and we complied.

The Senate was even more aggressive than the House in providing this funding – in many instances appropriating more than the House.

I believe TSA is now headed in the right direction. We can save taxpayers billions of dollars by using smaller, modern explosive detection machines that do not require the remodeling of many airports in America and by replacing the temporary “trace” machines now clogging the lobbies of many airports. Most importantly, we can better protect passengers with next generation explosive detection machines, which are more reliable in detecting bombs and weapons.

It is true that the first small machine certified by TSA was made by a supporter of mine in my race for Chairman of the Appropriations Committee last year. That does not detract from the fact that the company won its contract fair and square in open competition. TSA made its decision based on science and engineering.

To put it in perspective, Reveal was only one of 1203 supporters of mine who, over four years, raised \$2.1 million at 147 fundraisers for HALPAC, my leadership committee, at receptions and dinners from New York to California. HALPAC funds are used to donate to candidates for Congress, not for my personal campaign’s use. We, so far, have given to 272 other candidates who share with me similar, conservative views.”

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