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Robert C. Tapella
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Recently, the *Washington Times* published a series of articles about the U.S. passport that contained a variety of misleading and inaccurate information. Regrettably, the articles raised a number of unfounded concerns about the security of this critically important document.

I want to personally assure you that the Government Printing Office has taken extraordinary steps to protect the security of the passport, which we have been producing with pride for the State Department since 1926. Working with the State Department, we have established rigorous security standards that must be met by the supply chain for this document and we monitor all supply and production activities to guard against counterfeiting, fraud, or theft. We are currently cooperating fully with the appropriate committees in Congress to reassure them of this fact. You and your constituents can remain confident that the e-passport remains the gold standard of U.S. identity documents.

I am enclosing a fact sheet on e-passports to assist you and your staff in addressing any questions your office may receive on this matter. You are also welcome to tour our passport operations in Washington, DC, or at our secure production facility at the Stennis Space Center in southwest Mississippi. With this tour, you will see first hand the extraordinary security controls we have in place over production of this product. For further information or to schedule a tour, please contact GPO's Office of Congressional Relations, at 202-512-1991.

Again, I want to assure you that GPO, working with the State Department, has taken—and continues to take—extraordinary measures to protect the security of U.S. passports.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. TAPELLA
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Enclosure

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