



United States Department of Transportation
TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington D.C. 20590

MAR 07 2003

Mr. Steven Greenall
Executive Director
International Trombone Association
P.O. Box 305338
Denton, TX 76203

Dear Mr. Greenall:

Thank you for your letter of February 18, 2003, regarding the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) policy for the screening and carriage of musical instruments aboard aircraft in the United States.

TSA had extensive collaboration with the musical industry in developing new measures with regards to the screening of musical instruments. We believe that as a result of this collaboration, you will see a notable difference in the screening of your instrument the next time you travel through one of our Nation's airports.

TSA agrees that this is an important issue affecting the livelihood of hard working people nationwide. We have made it clear to our screening workforce that no instruments are to be prohibited from carriage beyond the screening checkpoint due to their size. Also, musicians who choose to carry on their instruments will still be permitted to carry on one personal item and one bag. We recommend that you contact your air carrier prior to your departure to determine any additional size restrictions for carry-on and checked baggage.

I strongly encourage you to visit TSA's Web site (www.tsa.dot.gov) for further information about screening issues under the "Travelers and Consumers" heading. This is a valuable resource and contains a great deal of information relevant to safe and efficient travel. I hope this information addresses your concerns.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas R. Blank
Assistant Administrator for
Security Regulation and Policy