WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez (CA-47) today issued the following statement regarding Major General Harding's decision to withdraw his nomination for Assistant Secretary of the Transportation Security Administration and the critical need to fill this position.

"I was disappointed to learn Major General Harding withdrew his nomination for TSA's top post. Regardless of his reasons for withdrawing, the unfortunate reality is that TSA's top post – which has remained vacant since last January - will likely remain unfilled for many more months.

"I urge the Obama Administration to quickly nominate another qualified candidate for this position, and more importantly, I urge the Senate to stop playing politics and swiftly confirm President Obama's future nominee. The lack of leadership at TSA puts the security of our transportation systems and airports at risk. Congress' number one priority should be the safety of the American people, but its recent actions suggest that our leaders are more concerned with scoring cheap political points."

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