







There are 36 countries currently designated for visa-free travel under the program, all of which must sign information-sharing agreements with the U.S., and qualify under certain enumerators regarding refusals at consular offices abroad.

The U.S. Government maintains that there are significant security benefits from having countries enter into the required info-sharing agreements and to report lost and stolen passports promptly –

In addition to the economic and diplomatic benefits accrued from more travel to the U.S.

As I conclude my remarks I am hopeful that those with questions will ask them, and that they will listen to the answers.

I wholly believe that today's outdated visa regime reflects neither the current strategic relationship nor the close historic bonds between our peoples.

I look forward to today's discussion, and thank the Committee for its indulgence.

Thank you.