

San Antonio International Airport gains "Landing Rights" for Private Aircraft Customs Processing



L to R: Mayor Hardberger, Congressman Smith and Councilman Rowe

At a press conference held on March 20, 2008, Congressman Lamar Smith announced that Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff signed the order to allow private aircraft from foreign countries to fly directly to San Antonio International Airport. Prior to receiving the "Landing Rights" designation, private aircraft owners arriving from south of the border were required to stop in Laredo or other locations before continuing to San Antonio. This designation was effective April 7, 2008.

Local corporate supporters have indicated that they will benefit financially from reduced travel time, wear on aircraft and fuel consumption since only one take off is required for the return trip to San Antonio. The designation will stimulate a new segment of tourism and business development for San Antonio. This status should also continue to establish San Antonio as Mexico's preferred global destination for cultural, educational and commercial activity.