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DATE: January 18, 2011

TO: US State Department
RE: Nicaragua Travel Advisory

I would like to express my professional view that the current travel advisory for Nicaragua is excessive in its coverage of violence and threats to American citizens.

Of course, I understand and appreciate the role and responsibility of the State Department to report on incidents and make appropriate estimations of safety and risk.

However, I would like to report that we have sent dozens of passengers to Nicaragua in the past year and everyone one of them has had a spectacular and safe trip. Of course, there is a significant difference between visitors who travel independently on a low budget and without using sound judgment for their own personal safety.

It is not fair to, nor is it representative of, the developing tourism industry of Nicaragua that such incidents dominate the perception among prospective travelers that it is not safe to travel there. While I would suggest you reduce the severity of the warnings, perhaps it would also be more realistic to state how safe it is traveling in Nicaragua under the auspices of licensed tour operators and professional guides.

Following is a comment from a family who traveled with Wildland Adventures to Nicaragua in December 2010:

We had a wonderful time in Nicaragua. All my kids thanked us over and over again for taking them there. I think our family would agree, that the best part of our trip was our guide, Julio Flores. We consider him a friend.

Claire Lichtenfels

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Kurt Kutay
President