



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

April 10, 2012

The Honorable Earl Blumenauer
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Blumenauer:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting the application of Alaska Airlines, Inc. for two beyond-perimeter slot exemptions at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Alaska's application proposes to serve Portland International Airport with one round trip per day from DCA.

Under authority granted in the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012, the U.S. Department of Transportation will be awarding to new entrant or limited incumbent carriers a total of eight slot exemptions at DCA, which would support four daily round trips.

We received Alaska's application, which also proposes one daily round trip to San Diego, on March 12. Other timely applications were received from Air Canada, proposing one round trip to Vancouver, British Columbia; Frontier Airlines, one round trip to Colorado Springs and beyond to San Diego; JetBlue Airlines, one round trip to San Juan, Puerto Rico, and one round trip to Austin, Texas; Southwest Airlines, one round trip to Austin and San Diego beyond; Sun Country Airlines, one round trip to Las Vegas; and Virgin America, Inc., two round trips to San Francisco.

As the matter is still pending, I cannot comment on the merits of the points raised in your letter. However, I can assure you that all applications the Department received will be given full and fair consideration and will be evaluated against the selection criteria specified in the statute.

The Department's action on this matter is being administered through a public docket, which allows all interested parties the opportunity to comment. Following our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in docket number DOT-2012-0029.

A similar response has been sent to each cosigner of your letter. I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

Ray LaHood

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray LaHood', is written over the typed name and extends across the bottom of the page.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

We are writing in support of the application submitted by Alaska Airlines, Inc., to secure two of the eight "beyond-perimeter slot" exemptions at Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA). Their application would provide a daily nonstop roundtrip flight between DCA and Portland International Airport (PDX), as provided by the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012.

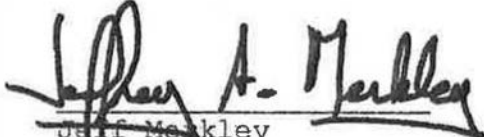
Oregon is notoriously underserved for air service into Washington, D.C. It is one of the most populated states without nonstop service to DCA, yet over 420 passengers fly between Oregon and the Washington, D.C., area in each direction every day.

Today, nonstop service from Oregon is limited to a single United Airlines frequency into Washington Dulles (IAD). In order to fly in or out of DCA, Oregon residents have to make time consuming connections through Seattle, San Francisco, or through other circuitous points. Consequently, we actively supported efforts to increase the number of beyond-perimeter exemptions permitted at DCA so new entrants and limited incumbent air carriers have the opportunity to provide direct flights from the west coast into DCA.

Alaska Airlines is well-positioned to provide Oregonians with their first nonstop service into DCA. Alaska and its regional carrier, Horizon Air, have a substantial hub presence at PDX and currently operate more than 90 flights per day to 33 destinations. They are highly regarded for their customer service, financial strength, and operational performance. We are pleased their proposed nonstop flight from PDX into DCA is the top priority in their application.

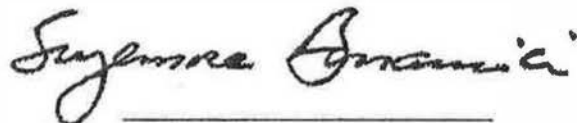
Please give their application full and fair consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeff Merkley
United States Senator


Ron Wyden
United States Senator


Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress


Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress


Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress


Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress


Greg Walden
Member of Congress