

June 21, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

On behalf of the Port of Seattle and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA), we are writing to share our strong support for Delta Air Line's application for the allocation of a new flight between SEA and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

A core value for the Port is that more direct air service benefits travelers through SEA – whether it be new international or domestic service to a previously unserved destination, or additional competition on an existing route. We welcome airlines that are working to increase options and affordability for SEA passengers, and so supporting Delta's application is very much in line with those principles. In particular, SEA is the largest "beyond-perimeter" market with only one carrier providing service to DCA.

The recent approval of five new daily beyond-perimeter flights as part of the recent Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization bill provides Washington State and the broader Pacific Northwest with an exciting opportunity to expand access to the nation's capital. Currently, just two direct flights per day operate between SEA and DCA, which means that travelers utilize connecting flights or direct flights to the much further away Washington Dulles International Airport or Baltimore-Washington International Airport.

A potential new flight from SEA to DCA will enable Washington State and Pacific Northwest residents to travel there more conveniently and at lower costs, unlocking the countless benefits that access to our nation's capital has to offer. That fact that only 31 percent of SEA travelers going to the Washington, DC Metro area utilizing the current direct service to DCA indicates that there is sufficient demand to support new direct service.

As the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) considers applications from airlines for these five new flight pairs, we urge you to prioritize Delta Air Lines' application for a route to SEA. A new daily route to DCA will deliver much-needed access and affordability to local residents throughout the Pacific Northwest. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Commissioner Hamdi Mohamed
Commission President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Toshiko Hasegawa".

Commissioner Toshiko Hasegawa
Commission Vice President

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen P. Metruck".

Stephen P. Metruck
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lance Lyttle".

Lance Lyttle
Managing Director Aviation