



January 29, 2024

Senate Commerce Committee
254 Russell Senate Building;
Washington DC, 20510.

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

We write to inform you that we support expanding the number of flights permitted in and out of Reagan Airport (DCA). To do so requires modernizing the outdated federal perimeter rule that unfairly restricts flights – especially from western cities, including Los Angeles, Seattle, San Francisco, San Antonio, and Salt Lake City. This will be a large economic benefit to Northern Virginia and Washington D.C., estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars.

It would benefit those who live and work in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, given the proximity of Reagan Airport to the Capital and the business district of downtown Washington. The new \$1 billion renovation and modernization of DCA means more gates and enables more flights - mostly during the nonpeak flying hours.

Opponents of the additional flights argue that this would mean more competition for Washington Dulles Airport. This is why some airlines, such as United Airlines – which uses Dulles as a major hub - are lobbying to stop the flight expansions from Reagan.

Since when is more competition a bad thing? Airline prices have been one of the fastest growing items of late in the Consumer Price Index – partly because of government airport controls. Adding more flights to Reagan will lower prices for flyers.

The 1966 Perimeter Rule may have made sense a half-century ago, but today the law makes little sense given that planes are much quieter and less intrusive at take-off and landing than in the early years of commercial flights. In addition, Northern Virginia's population, and particularly Loudoun County, where Dulles is located, has grown markedly over the last 20 years so Dulles is more than capable of standing on its own without this federal protectionist measure.

We, the undersigned, support lowering prices, expanding consumer choices and creating more airline competition by allowing more flights out of Reagan Airport.

Sincerely

Stephen Moore, Co-Founder of the Committee to Unleash Prosperity

David Malpass, Former President of the World Bank

Morton Blackwell, Founder of the Leadership Institute

Steve Forbes, Publisher and Editor of Forbes Magazine

Arthur Laffer, Chairman of Laffer Associates

Steve Hanke, Economist, Johns Hopkins University

Cesar Conda, Economic Advisory Board, Committee to Unleash Prosperity

Phil Kerpen, President of American Commitment

Tomas Phillipson, Former Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisors

Andy Puzder, Former CEO of CKE Restaurants

Judy Shelton, Independent Institute

Jim Martin, 60+ Association

Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the House

George Landrith, President of Frontiers of Freedom

Iain Murray, Competitive Enterprise Institute

Bill Walton, Council for National Policy

Saul Anuzis, President of the 60+ Association

EJ Antoni, Economist, Heritage Foundation

Dan Mitchell, President, Center for Freedom and Prosperity

JD Foster, Former Chief Economist Chamber of Commerce

Alfredo Ortiz, President, Job Creators Network

Lisa Nelson, President, ALEC

Bob McEwen, President of the Council for National Policy

David Bahnsen, CIO, Bahnsen Group

Jim Miller, former Reagan OMB Director

Todd Tiahart, Former Member of Congress

Jessie Jane Duff Gold Institute for International Strategy

Henry Butler, Dean of George Mason University Law School

Gordon Jones, Founder, Mount Liberty College

(Affiliations are for identification purposes only)