

Reference: Docket OST-2000-7181

The Honorable Norman Mineta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I am an Alaska Airlines employee and am writing to express support for the company's application for four "beyond-perimeter" slots between Reagan National Airport (DCA) and Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) and four between Reagan and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA).

None of the current beyond-perimeter slot allocations are being used to serve California and approving our application would provide this badly needed service. Approving our application would also provide "domestic network benefits" throughout the West Coast because together with our codeshare partners, we offer nonstop service to 26 domestic and international communities beyond Los Angeles.

Of the two additional Seattle flights we propose, one would be routed to provide same-plane, one-stop service to Fairbanks, and the other, on a seasonal basis, to Juneau. In addition, both new flights would be timed to offer connections to people living in communities served by Horizon Air.

Approving this application would also clearly "increase competition by new entrant air carriers." Although Alaska Airlines is a major presence on the West Coast, it currently has only two slots at DCA—a round-trip flight to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport authorized by the Department in 2001.

Alaska's DCA-SEA service has been a big success. It has led to the initiation of our new service to other East Coast airports---Boston, Newark, Washington Dulles, Orlando and Miami.

Most importantly from my perspective as an employee, allowing Alaska Airlines to fly to Washington's Reagan National airport from LAX and with additional flights from Seattle to DCA will best serve the public interest because of the award-winning customer service we will provide. We live our values of Alaska spirit, resourcefulness, integrity, professionalism and caring every day as we serve the traveling public.

Please allow us the opportunity to offer our unique customer service to travelers between the West Coast and DCA by granting Alaska Airlines the slots to add service to Reagan National Airport from LAX and Seattle as described above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Corri Rathbone