

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 writing to express my support for the application of Alaska Airlines for new "beyond-perimeter" slots at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). Alaska's plan to offer two daily round-trip flights between Los Angeles and DCA and two additional round trips between Seattle and DCA will provide __ (individual/company) __ much needed nonstop access to the nation's capital.

None of the current beyond-perimeter slot allocations are being used to serve California, and approving Alaska's application would provide this badly needed service. Approving the application would also provide "network benefits" throughout the West Coast because, together with their travel partners, Alaska offers nonstop service to 26 domestic and international cities beyond Los Angeles.

The two additional Seattle flights proposed by Alaska would be routed to provide same-plane, one-stop service to multiple new markets in the state of Alaska. In addition, both new flights would be timed to offer enhanced connections to people living in communities throughout the Pacific Northwest served by Horizon Air.

Approving this application would also clearly "increase competition by new entrant / limited incumbent air carriers." Although Alaska Airlines has a major presence on the West Coast, it currently has only two slots at DCA, allowing only a single daily round-trip flight to Seattle.

Please allow Alaska Airlines the opportunity to offer its award-winning customer service to travelers between the West Coast and DCA by granting Alaska Airlines the slots to add service to Reagan National Airport from Los Angeles and Seattle as described above. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Carl M. Gonder