



GREATER MADISON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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January 21, 2014

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

The Honorable Michael P. Huerta
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Secretary Foxx and Administrator Huerta:

I am writing to you today to communicate the importance of preventing the discontinuation of non-stop air service from Dane County Regional Airport (MSN) in Madison, Wisconsin to Washington, D.C. (DCA). As you are aware, Republic Airways recently divested Frontier Airlines, which resulted in the termination of a flight agreement, therefore ending nonstop service from Madison to Washington, D.C (DCA) in the near future.

The Dane County Regional Airport serves the City of Madison, the Capital of the State of Wisconsin, and more than five million residents of the south-central Wisconsin region. In addition, the Dane County Regional Airport serves visitors from around the globe who come to Madison for leisure and business travel, convention and conference attendance.

Tourism accounts for over \$1.9 billion in direct spending in Dane County supported by such notable events as the world's largest dairy industry exposition and trade show, World Dairy Expo, Ironman Wisconsin, and Epic Users Group meetings. These travelers rely on connections from major destinations such as Washington D.C. and we rely on their visits to keep our economy healthy.

Therefore, on behalf of these travelers, I strongly support the request of Republic Airlines to allow Shuttle America to continue direct flights to DCA under the Delta Connection brand – utilizing the available Republic Airways slots.

Without the continued nonstop service proposed by Republic under the Delta Connection brand, Madison would lose all nonstop service to the nation's capital. No party contends otherwise. The Secretary alone has the discretion to grant the relief sought by Republic and to determine what circumstances qualify as "exceptional" under 49 U.S.C. § 41714(d). We respectfully submit that there is no more exceptional circumstance or exceptional need than to allow Republic to continue a successful and established nonstop service linking Madison and DCA

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On behalf of the Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau and the Madison Area Sports Commission and the many visitors we represent, I strongly urge the Department to move swiftly to grant the request of Republic Airlines the ability to use available DCA slots for Shuttle America service to DCA to prevent a temporary disruption to this important daily service.

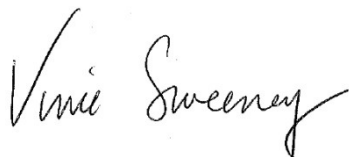
Sincerely:



Deb Archer, President & CEO
Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau
Madison Area Sports Commission



Joel Weitz, Owner, President, & PGA Professional, Vitense Golfland
Chairman of the Board, Greater Madison Convention & Visitors Bureau



Vince Sweeney, Vice Chancellor for University Relations, University of Wisconsin -Madison
Chairman of the Board, Madison Area Sports Commission