

**TESTIMONY
OF CHARLES A. GARGANO
CHAIRMAN AND CEO
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I am submitting this testimony to express my strong support of Delta Air Lines' application for route authority to serve Brazil and Uruguay from New York. The award of this route to Delta would further strengthen the close ties between New York and Brazil, and greatly benefit the existing trade and commerce between our two nations.

New York has long been the gateway to America; and as JFK International Airport celebrates its 50th Anniversary this year, the airport is currently undergoing a \$5 billion redevelopment. Delta has continued to grow its operations in New York, the business capital of the world. Likewise, New York has benefited from its relationship with Delta, which now serves more cities from Kennedy and LaGuardia than any other airline.

Delta offers convenient service to points throughout the U.S., Europe, and Canada.

Delta's proposed service expansion to Brazil and Uruguay from New York would further promote the international development of the region and directly benefit millions of travelers and businesses both here and abroad.

Brazil is the largest economy in South America, and a market with enormous growth potential. Last year, New York exported over \$1.2 billion in goods alone to Brazil (a 22% increase over the previous year). In partnership with Delta, not only would trade and tourism flourish, but Delta would also provide necessary competition in the New York-Brazil market now dominated by foreign carriers.

I appreciate the opportunity to voice my support of Delta's application for New York-Brazil route authority. New York has a very positive relationship with Delta Air Lines, and I am confident that Brazil and the traveling public would equally benefit from DOT's award of the Brazil-New York route authority to Delta Air Lines.