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May 22, 2000

The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket OST-2000-718 1

Dear Mr. Secretary:

As so much of Alaska's public policy **business** is in the nation's capital and **because** many Alaskans are required to travel there **frequently**, Washington, **D.C.**, is a very important destination to the State of Alaska. The possibility of flying direct into Ronald Reagan National Airport would greatly improve our ability to conduct business and handle our affairs in the nation's **capital** more effectively.

Our primary airports for long-distance air travel **within** the U.S. are Seattle-Tacoma **International** and Salt Lake City International, neither of which have had an opportunity for nonstop service to and **from** Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport. That means we are forced to connect at an airport in the eastern half of the country to fly into **DCA**.

Both Northwest Airlines and Delta Airlines propose to improve our air travel options by flying nonstop to Ronald Reagan National **from** major hubs located in the western United States.

Northwest Airlines has requested two slot exemptions and Delta Airlines has **requested** four slot exemptions under **the** 'Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century.'

This new service is vital to our region and we urge you to provide Delta Airlines and Northwest Airlines with the slots needed for nonstop operations.

Sincerely,

ajs Tony Knowles

Tony Knowles
Governor