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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

00 JUN -7 PM 4:00

June 7, 2000

Dorothy Walker
U. S . Department of Transportation
400 Seventh St., SW
Room PL-401
Washington DC 2059 1

Re: Docket OST-2000-7181-54
Delta Air Lines? Inc.? U.S. Senate Support Letter

Dear Ms. Walker:

Enclosed for filing in the above-referenced docket is a letter of support for Delta's Washington National-Salt Lake City service proposal signed by ten members of the U.S. Senate. Copies of this letter have been served on all parties.

Sincerely,



Robert E. Cohn
Alexander Van der Bellen
Counsel for Delta Air Lines, Inc.

Enclosure

cc: Service List

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 26, 2000

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

Dear Secretary Slater:

We are writing in support of Delta Air Lines' application for four slot exemptions to serve Salt Lake City from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA).

Delta Air Lines has proposed two daily nonstop round-trip flights between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Salt Lake City, Utah using four of the twelve slot exemptions for service beyond the DCA perimeter created under the "Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century."

As you know, this legislation directs the Department to grant twelve slot exemptions "to air carriers to operate limited frequencies and aircraft on selected routes between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and domestic hub airports" located beyond the DCA perimeter (i.e., more than 1,250 statute miles from DCA). Delta's application for four slot exemptions to operate two daily nonstop round-trip flights between Salt Lake City and DCA is fully consistent with each of the exemption criterion approved by Congress,

Salt Lake City and the dozens of small and medium-sized communities that enjoy nonstop service to Salt Lake City have long been deprived of convenient and competitive access to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport due to the artificial restriction imposed by the perimeter rule. Delta's application offers the Department the opportunity to immediately correct this service deficiency. Delta's proposal will maximize the use of these limited statutory exemptions by allowing nonstop service to Delta's Salt Lake City hub, one of the major network hubs located in the western United States, which will benefit numerous small and mid-sized communities throughout the intermountain west and across the northern tier of states.

As a major hub, Salt Lake City is ideally situated to serve as a gateway to DCA for many western U.S. communities. Salt Lake City is the only airline hub located in the intermountain west and is Delta's primary western hub. Delta's proposed two daily flights between DCA and Salt Lake City will enhance online travel options to and from DCA for dozens of small and medium-sized communities throughout the western United States. Moreover, Delta's proposed service will increase competition in multiple markets located throughout the western United

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater
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States, provide **highly sought-after nonstop service** for business and **leisure passengers** traveling **between Salt Lake City and DCA**, as well as provide **convenient single connection** online jet service to **65 cities located** in the western United States.

'we **urge you to carefully** consider Delta's application. These four slot **exemptions** will **ensure** that **communities throughout** the **western United States** receive **improved access** to DCA. Delta's proposal **will** result in the **optimal** use of this valuable new **opportunity**.

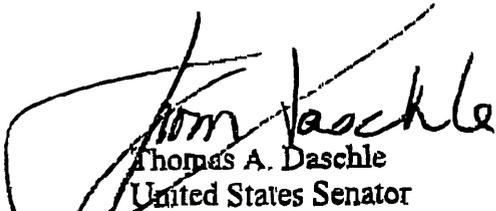
Thank you for your **consideration**.



Robert F. Bennett
United States Senator



Orrin G. Hatch
United States Senator



Thomas A. Daschle
United States Senator



Tim Johnson
United States Senator



Conrad Burns
United States Senator



Max Baucus
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