

BEFORE THE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C.

1999 U.S.-ARGENTINA
COMBINATION SERVICE CASE

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) Docket OST-99-6210
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COMMENTS OF
THE GEORGIA/ATLANTA PARTIES

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December 26, 2000

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The Georgia and Atlanta Parties applaud the Department's decision to make Atlanta the first new nonstop gateway for Argentina service on April 1, 2001. The Georgia and Atlanta Parties strongly support the Department's reasoning in the Show Cause Order, and urge the Department to promptly issue a Final Order confirming its tentative findings.

Atlanta is located in the heart of the burgeoning southeast region of the country. Over the past several years, Atlanta Hartsfield Airport has experienced a surge in new nonstop service to the Latin American region by Delta, from its major Atlanta hub, as well as foreign-flag carriers that have recognized the important commercial opportunities Atlanta has to offer.

Argentina is one of the most important destinations in South America. As noted in the Show Cause Order, authorizing new nonstop service by Delta will provide Atlanta with its first daily service, as well as its first service by a U.S. flag carrier. Atlanta appreciates the current thrice-weekly service it receives from

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LAPA, but believes that daily competitive service by a U.S. carrier will significantly enhance the benefits available to the traveling and shipping public. The Department correctly found that since the New York/Newark metropolitan area enjoys much higher levels of current service, “the inauguration of the first U.S.-flag service to Argentina from the Atlanta region justifies the award to Delta of the first seven frequencies.” Order 2000-12-13 at 11.

Moreover, the addition of new nonstop Argentina service by Delta at Atlanta will radiate service and competitive benefits to the scores of cities Delta serves on a nonstop basis from the Atlanta Hartsfield Airport. The Georgia and Atlanta parties agree with the Department’s conclusion that service at Atlanta should take precedence over both Newark and Houston because “the selection of Atlanta would provide greater public benefits taking into consideration all of the evidence of record . . .” *Id.*

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WHEREFORE, the Georgia and Atlanta Parties urge the Department to promptly issue a Final Order confirming the Department's tentative decision in Order 2000-12-13.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing Comments of the Georgia and Atlanta Parties were served this 26th day of December, 2000, upon all of the persons listed on the attached Service List.

/s/

Pauline C. Donovan

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