



April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008

Mrs. Peters  
Docket Operations, US Department of Transportation  
West Building, Ground Floor, Room W12-140  
Routing Symbol M-30  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590 USA

2008 APR - 2 P 2:45

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

Dear Mrs. Peters:

Re: Docket No. FAA-2008-0036 – Policy regarding Airport Rates & Charges

The Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport Authority (The Authority) which operates the Ottawa International Airport (CYOW) has read the proposed amendment to the above noted docket and has the following comments:

- The Authority has received and reviewed the comments of the International Air Transport Association and the Air Transport Association of Canada and is in substantial agreement with and supports their submissions.
- We are particularly concerned that the proposed policy contravenes the US/Canada Bilateral Air Transport Agreement, specifically Article 9. In that, the proposed fees will discriminate against operators of small aircraft. All flights operated from the Ottawa International Airport to the United States use regional aircraft, i.e. smaller aircraft. Currently, there are 32 daily departures from Ottawa to the United States. Smaller markets such as Ottawa risk losing their Canada/US air service as the proposed fixed charge does not constitute "Equitable Treatment" under Article 9 and does in fact discriminate against smaller aircraft operations.
- Finally, the Canada/US bilateral explicitly ensures access to both New York LaGuardia and Washington Reagan airports for Canadian carriers. This proposal may well end up limiting access to these congested airports.

Accordingly, the Ottawa Macdonald International Airport Authority urges the Department of Transportation to abandon this proposal.

Yours truly,



Paul Benoit  
President & CEO

c.c. President & CEO, Canadian Airports Council  
President & CEO, Airport Council International-North America