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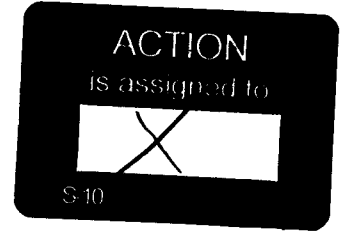
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The Honorable Norman Mineta
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington DC 20590

OST 2005-20406-1116



Dear Secretary Mineta,

As a very satisfied customer of Alaska Airlines, I am writing to express support for their application to be granted authority to serve the Los Angeles-Mexico City route. Alaska's plan to offer 2 daily nonstop round trip flights between Los Angeles and Mexico City will provide a much-needed enhancement in access to Mexico's capital. For several reasons, I believe Alaska is uniquely qualified to competitively serve this market and is the best candidate to fill this vacant route designation.

Alaska's new Mexico City service will bring greater convenience and new competitive alternatives to tens of thousands of leisure and business travelers up and down the West Coast. As both the leading Los Angeles-Mexico and West Coast-Mexico carrier, Alaska is perfectly positioned to build on the strength of its existing market presence. Alaska's success in becoming the leading West Coast-Mexico carrier is largely attributable to Alaska's superior north-south West Coast route system, which extends from Mexico through 35 cities in California, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Alaska, plus 38 western points served by Alaska's sister carrier Horizon Air. No other carrier has a comparable West Coast network that is as ideally positioned to support multiple daily Los Angeles-Mexico City flights.

Additionally, Alaska's new entrant status at Mexico City provides the greatest incentive to maximize competition in the Los Angeles-Mexico City market. Alaska is the only applicant that does not serve Mexico City. Every other applicant already serves Mexico City from its principal hub and, in some cases, from multiple hubs.

Please allow Alaska Airlines the opportunity to offer their unique customer service to travelers between the West Coast and Mexico City by granting Alaska Airlines the route authority as described above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Mary D. McWilliams
President