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ROBERT M. BALL, A.A.E.  
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

February 15, 2007

DAVID M. OWEN  
 PORT AUTHORITY ATTORNEY

The Honorable Mary Peters  
 Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation  
 400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
 Washington, DC 20590

**BOARD OF  
 PORT COMMISSIONERS**

Dear Secretary Peters:

A. BRIAN BIGELOW

RE: Application of AirTran Airways/Docket Number. OST-2000-7182 -1340

TAMMY HALL

Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) supports the request of AirTran Airways, Inc. in their application for two slot exemptions to add one daily nonstop flight between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL).

BOB JANES

RAY JUDAH

RSW serves a highly popular Florida holiday destination that includes Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Naples, and the well-known islands of Sanibel, Captiva, and Marco. The air trade area includes three of the top ten fastest-growing metropolitan areas in the United States, Fort Myers/Cape Coral, Naples, and Punta Gorda. Although the region is experiencing business growth, it is still primarily a tourism-dependent market with seasonal characteristics.

FRANK MANN

The Washington market ranks as the eighth largest market for the region in terms of visitation and passenger traffic, and has grown 30.1% from 2004 to 2005. We can attribute much of this growth to AirTran as they have become one of our top five airlines at the airport with a record increase in the number of flights in the 2006/2007 season. AirTran has been, and will continue to be, a valuable partner to RSW. With the completion of the new terminal in September 2005, AirTran has utilized more ticket counter space, additional gates, and operational areas in response to our rapid population and passenger growth.

The additional DCA-ATL roundtrip is important to our area as it not only provides greater connecting options for travelers headed to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area, but will also strengthen AirTran's service to RSW and help maintain and expand the economic benefits the carrier has brought to our community.

The Honorable Mary Peters  
February 15, 2007  
Page Two

To attain these results, I urge you to award AirTran the two within perimeter DCA slots it has requested to add a DCA-ATL roundtrip.

Sincerely,

LEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert M. Ball". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "R" and "B".

Robert M. Ball, A.A.E.

Executive Director

cc: Richard Magurno, AirTran Airways  
Kevin Healy, AirTran Airways  
Edward Faberman, Wiley Rein LLP