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February 19, 2007

The Honorable Mary E. Peters  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket OST-2000-7182 - 1378

Dear Secretary Peters:

Please allow this letter to serve as notice of my support of US Airways' request to provide service from the Pensacola Gulf Coast Regional Airport to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport under the Department's slot exemption proceeding, **Docket OST-2000-7182**.

As the lead person responsible for economic development of Pensacola and the Pensacola Bay Area, I cannot fully communicate how important this direct link is for Pensacola and the region. As I am sure you are aware, the community and the region have significant military assets which including NAS Pensacola, Huriburt Field which houses special ops training, and Eglin Air Force Base.

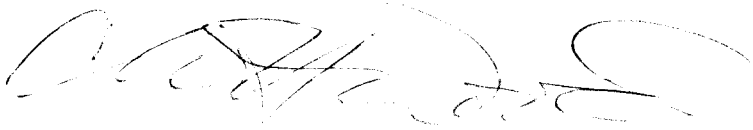
However, what many people do not know about the region is that we are an emerging center for aerospace and software development. There are dozens of firms, many of which have been developed through military innovations that now call the Pensacola Bay Area their home. These high-tech companies are very reliant on their ties to major government contractors, many of which are based or have a significant presence in Washington D.C. Direct service to the Washington DC area and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport specifically will significantly improve the ability of these companies to grow and in tern create new high-wage, high-skill jobs in our community.

While I understand that there is significant competition for these slots, we are the only community competing with no direct service to the Baltimore-Washington region. Each of the other carriers has direct service to at least one of the major airports in the Baltimore-Washington region such as the direct flight from Little Rock, Arkansas to BWI

in Baltimore, Maryland. In fact, behind Oklahoma City, Pensacola is the largest within-perimeter market without non-stop service to the Washington area. Including the nearby communities, Pensacola is by far the largest market without service to any Washington area airport. Additionally, the entire Gulf Coast region from Mobile, Alabama to Fort Walton Beach, Florida lacks non-stop service to Washington DC.

This new service is critical to the future growth of our region. Thank you in advance for your support and please feel free to contact me at (850) 438-4081 should you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles H. Wood". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "H".

Charles H. Wood  
Senior Vice President – Economic Development