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LEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

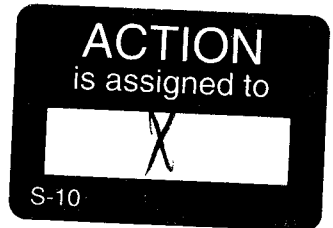
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2007 JUL 16 P 2: 17



July 2, 2007

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

DAVID M. OWEN
PORT AUTHORITY ATTORNEY

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

ost-07-28567-204

Dear Madam Secretary:

BOARD OF
PORT COMMISSIONERS

On behalf of Southwest Florida International Airport in Ft. Myers, Florida, I am writing to express my support for Delta Air Lines' application for nonstop service between Atlanta and Shanghai, China.

A. BRIAN BIGELOW

From 1990 to 2005, productivity in China grew at an impressive rate of 9 percent per year. Many factors contributed to this strong productivity performance, including high rates of capital investments, increasing openness of trade, and the strengthening of the educational system. The opening of the economy to international trade, investment, and the desire to strengthen the existing educational system, has created many opportunities for Southwest Florida. Florida Gulf Coast University, our local university, Southwest Florida International Airport, and our three county economic development offices have established working relationships with businesses and universities in the Shanghai region. Delta Airlines' proposed new service would be an important step in strengthening our relationship between Southwest Florida and the People's Republic of China, its companies, and its people.

TAMMY HALL

BOB JAMES

RAY JUDAH

FRANK MANN

I understand that the Department of Transportation is evaluating additional candidates for the next air carrier designation to China; however, I am confident you will agree that the Atlanta hub and Delta Air Lines offer the best proposal for this designation. More passengers pass through Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport than any other airport in the world, and Delta's hub operation, with more than 1,000 daily flights to more than 240 destinations worldwide, is the largest airline hub in the world, yet Delta is the largest U.S. carrier without access to the China market.

Madam Secretary, I strongly urge the Department of Transportation to select Delta for the 2007 new entrant designation, and to award seven United States-to-China frequencies to Delta for nonstop service between Atlanta and Shanghai.

Sincerely,

LEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY

Robert M. Ball
Executive Director, A.A.E.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

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