

G. K. BUTTERFIELD
1ST DISTRICT, NORTH CAROLINA

413 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-3301
(202) 226-3101
FAX: (202) 226-3354

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC

www.house.gov/butterfield

September 5, 2007

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP
OF THE DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
AND COMMERCE
VICE CHAIR - ENERGY AND AIR
QUALITY SUBCOMMITTEE
ENVIRONMENT AND HAZARDOUS
MATERIALS SUBCOMMITTEE
COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER
PROTECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

I urge the Department to grant the application of Delta Air Lines for designations and frequencies to operate daily nonstop service between Atlanta, Georgia, and Shanghai, China in 2007, and daily nonstop service between Atlanta, Georgia and Beijing, China in 2009. Awards to Delta will establish Atlanta as the most powerful new nonstop gateway to China. This service fills a substantial service void and will provide enormous consumer and competitive benefits to the nation and to the hundreds of communities and millions of people who live in and travel to North Carolina and the southeast through Atlanta each year.

Delta's proposed nonstop service between Atlanta and Shanghai, and between Atlanta and Beijing, is vitally important to enhance the competitive market structure between the U.S. and China in several fundamental respects.

First, Delta will be a new entrant in the U.S.-China market, and as a result will inject intense competition against the existing incumbent U.S. and foreign airlines.

Second, Atlanta, the world's largest airline hub, will be a new U.S. gateway for nonstop service to China, one of the most important carrier-selection factors. The world's largest airline hub serving 85 million passengers each year should be linked to the world's most populous country. Delta's proposed new plans for travel to Shanghai and Beijing will offer a full complement of convenient, one-stop connecting service to China to over 150 U.S. communities in the underserved eastern-half of the United States.

Third, Delta's service will fill a significant void in service between the United States and China. Delta's proposed nonstop Atlanta-Shanghai and Atlanta-Beijing flights would be the only nonstop service to China from the entire southern region of the United States. Indeed, Delta's proposed Atlanta-Shanghai flight would also be the only nonstop U.S.-carrier service to Shanghai from the eastern United States. These proposed flights will enhance competition among carriers providing service to Beijing and Shanghai by improving flight times and

DISTRICT OFFICES

216 WEST NASH STREET
SUITE B
WILSON, NC 27893
TELEPHONE: (252) 237-9816
FAX: (252) 291-0356

311 WEST SECOND STREET
P.O. Box 836
WELOON, NC 27890
TELEPHONE: (252) 638-4123
FAX: (252) 638-6518

416 EAST BOULEVARD
SUITE 100
WILLIAMSTON, NC 27892
TELEPHONE: (252) 789-4939
FAX: (252) 782-8113

connecting opportunities for passengers in North Carolina. Delta's service will benefit the entire southern region of the country with convenient new travel options.

Fourth, Delta is the only major international U.S. airline without authority to serve China; this critical void needs to be addressed bringing this carrier on par with those similarly situated in the industry.

Madam Secretary, I strongly urge the Department to select Delta for the 2007 new entrant designation including seven U.S.-China frequencies for nonstop Atlanta-Shanghai service, and to select Delta for seven of the available 2009 frequencies to provide nonstop Atlanta-Beijing service.

Thank you very much.

Very truly yours,


A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. K. Butterfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "G" and a long, sweeping underline.

G. K. Butterfield
Member of Congress

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Letter has been served this 6th day of September 2007, upon the following addressees:

carl.nelson@aa.com; rbkeiner@crowell.com; hkamen@coair.com;
sascha.vanderbellen@nwa.com; jeff.morgan@nwa.com;
charles.hunnicuttt@troutmansanders.com; jonathan.moss@wilmerhale.com;
bruce.rabinovitz@wilmerhale.com; jeffrey.manley@united.com;
howard_kass@usairways.com; msinick@ssd.com; cdonley@ssd.com;
kevin.montgomery@polaraircargo.com; jhill@dowlohnes.com;
rsilverberg@sgbdc.com; dvaughan@kelleydrye.com; gbleopard@fedex.com;
byerlyjr@state.gov; jim.ballough@faa.gov; ben.decosta@atlanta-airport.com;
pmurphy@lopmurphy.com; laura.jackson@wcaa.com;
brubinst@panynj.com; fbavent@airlineinfo.com



R. Diane Carlson