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MEMBER OF CONGRESS
SECOND DISTRICT, OHIO

TRANSPORTATION AND
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AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3502

September 7, 2007

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The Honorable Mary E. Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Re: DOT U.S.-China Proceeding, DOT Docket OST-2007-28567

Dear Secretary Peters:

I write to 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 provide enormous consumer and competitive benefits to residents of Ohio and to the hundreds of communities and millions of people who live in and travel through Delta's hub at 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 services to Shanghai and Beijing will offer a full complement of competitive, one-stop connecting service to China to over 150 U.S. communities in the underserved eastern-half of the United States, including six major cities and the eleven and a half million citizens in the State of Ohio.

Third, Delta's service will fill a significant void in service between the United States and China. These proposed flights will enhance the current market structure by providing new competitive service for passengers in Ohio seeking to travel to or from Shanghai and Beijing. Delta's service will benefit the entire eastern region of the country with convenient new service options.

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Fourth, Delta is the only major international U.S. airline without authority to serve to China, and that critical void needs to be addressed in this proceeding.

Nonstop Atlanta-Shanghai and Atlanta-Beijing links are also vitally important for the State of Ohio because of its substantial economic and social ties with China. Ohio exported over \$1.3 billion worth of products to China in 2006, up nearly 40 percent from the previous year. Delta's proposed nonstop service to Shanghai and Beijing, especially in light of Delta's strong presence at airports in the state, including Dayton, Columbus, Akron-Canton, Toledo, Cleveland and Delta's hub at the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky International Airport, will only foster continued economic growth.

Within all applicable rules and regulations, 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 for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



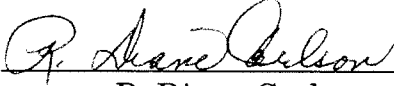
Jean Schmidt
Representative

JS/jl

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Letter has been served this 7th day of September 2007, upon the following addressees:

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