

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 17, 2007

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

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

Dear Madam Secretary:

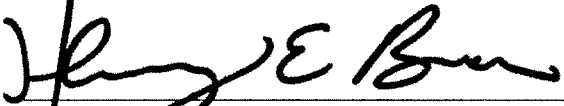
We, the undersigned members of the South Carolina Congressional delegation, urge the Department to grant the application of Delta Air Lines for designations and frequencies to operate daily nonstop service between Atlanta, Georgia, and Shanghai, China in 2007, and daily nonstop service between Atlanta, Georgia and Beijing, China in 2009. Above all else, awards to Delta provide direct connections between our nation's fastest growing region and the economic and governmental centers of the world's fastest growing economy. This will provide numerous consumer and competitive benefits to the nation and to the hundreds of communities and millions of people who live in and travel to the southeast through Delta's hub in Atlanta each year.


The State of South Carolina already has substantial economic and social ties with China. Our state exported over \$702 million worth of products to China in 2006, up 12.9% from the previous year. In addition, there are seven South Carolina companies with operations in China, and four major Chinese companies employ over 2000 South Carolinians. With the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Chinese government and the State of South Carolina on May 21<sup>st</sup> of this year, these ties are ready to be increased. Indeed, several international companies have major operations in South Carolina that employ tens of thousands of our constituents. The presence of a convenient aviation link between our state and international destinations was a key factor behind many of these investments. As such, South Carolina is clearly ready for a significant transportation link to China through Delta's proposed new service to Shanghai and Beijing.

Furthermore, 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 connecting opportunities for five communities and over 4 million citizens in South Carolina.

Madam Secretary, we 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.

Sincerely,

  
Henry E. Brown, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Bob Inglis  
Member of Congress

cc: Assistant Secretary Andrew Steinberg

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing Letter has been served this 18th day of September 2007, upon the following addressees:

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R. Diane Carlson