



December 7, 2007

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

Dear Secretary Peters:

Re: 2007 US-Colombia Proceeding – OST 2007-0006

As President/CEO of the Gaston Chamber of Commerce, I am pleased to write today in support of the 2009 application of US Airways, Inc. ("US Airways") to provide nonstop service between Charlotte and Bogotá, Colombia. The new service will provide the residents and businesses of the greater Charlotte area with the convenience of nonstop Colombia service, representing the first nonstop service between Charlotte and South America.

The benefits of improved transportation links to Colombia will be felt throughout our community. The Gaston Chamber of Commerce is united in its conviction that US Airways will provide public benefits far superior to those of the others carriers that have submitted applications to your Department for new service to Colombia. In addition such a service will further boost Charlotte's Douglas International Airport as an emerging international hub.

US Airways has always demonstrated a willingness to meet with our community leaders in an effort to respond to our international as well as domestic service needs. The Charlotte-Europe and Charlotte-Caribbean/Central America service US Airways offers has become a valuable transportation "asset" of our community. We have every confidence that affording US Airways an opportunity to provide its first service to Colombia and South America will represent a similarly important addition to our longstanding relationship with US Airways. It will bring substantial benefits to both business and tourist travelers from our area to Colombia. US Airways' financial success and remarkable turnaround over the course of the past two years is strong evidence of its ability to maximize the benefits of its significant hub presence throughout the East and West coasts – the same network benefits, which, along with US Airways' dedicated management, will assure the success of US Airways' Colombia service.

Gaston County is eager to share in the important benefits of improved air service to Colombia that this route proceeding promises. We therefore urge you to grant US Airways' application.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Elyse Hillegass
President/CEO

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