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March 9, 2016



The Honorable Anthony Foxx
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021



Dear Mr. Secretary:

On behalf of the nearly 700 members of Arlington Chamber of Commerce, we write strongly supporting of the application of United Airlines to provide air service between the U.S. and Cuba. We specifically support United's application for Saturday service between Washington Dulles International Airport and Havana's José Martí International Airport.



The U.S. Department of Transportation should grant United's request given the very significant economic and competitive benefits United's services would provide, as well as the consumer benefits it would bring to the Capital region's area businesses, entrepreneurs and travelers, including many Arlingtonians and Arlington businesses.



Virginia has been a leader in the development of relations with Cuba. According to the Washington Post, Virginia is already Cuba's largest source for U.S. agricultural products. Additionally, a trade mission, led by Governor Terry McAuliffe traveled to Cuba earlier this year to further enhance Virginia's position. This was undertaken as part of an effort to build a new Virginia economy by expanding Virginia exports and open doors to future collaboration into additional sectors.



In order to sustain and advance this progress, it is critical that Virginia and our nation's capital obtain nonstop air service to Havana. United's Washington Dulles-Havana service would naturally provide an important link between capital cities, fostering official travel between the U.S. and Cuban governments and increasing the role of intergovernmental organizations with Cuba.



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Washington Dulles – Havana service would also increase the range of consumer options for travel to Cuba from the East Coast. Moreover, Dulles is well situated in United’s domestic network and would provide one-stop connecting opportunities for passengers from several central and western cities in the United States.

We greatly appreciate the Department’s efforts to conclude an historic agreement that liberalizes air services between the U.S. and Cuba. We respectfully request that the Department approve United’s application for new air service to Havana from our Nation’s capital to continue building on this landmark achievement.

Sincerely,

Kate Roche
President & CEO