



June 5, 2023

The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Cantwell, Senator Cruz, Representative Graves and Representative Larsen,

We are members of the [Capital Access Alliance](#) (CAA), a growing coalition seeking to strengthen access to our nation's capital through more affordable and efficient air travel. We are writing today to ask for your support in adding more flights at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in this year's Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act.

We represent minority, underrepresented and marginalized communities from around the country who would benefit from better access to Washington, D.C. This includes students who are learning about our government and Washington, D.C.'s rich history, and businesses and advocacy organizations who require direct communication with the federal policymakers who shape the policies that impact them.

The demand for access to the national capital region is greater than ever. However, the federally imposed "perimeter rule" established by Congress nearly 60 years ago and in a very different era is both suppressing competition and making travel to our nation's capital more costly and inefficient, particularly for members of underserved communities.

Ninety-five percent of beyond-perimeter markets are underserved, including many states our organizations call home. That is because less than six percent of daily flights scheduled at DCA are authorized to fly beyond the perimeter. Fewer direct choices have a detrimental impact on travelers. A [recent study](#) shows that Washington, D.C., has the most expensive flights of the top 10 metropolitan areas in the U.S., and that beyond-perimeter travelers have to make at least one connecting flight. For far too many in minority and underrepresented communities, these factors prevent real barriers in visiting Washington, D.C.

The bipartisan [Direct Capital Access Act](#) – or The DCA Act – will update the perimeter rule and improve affordable access. The bill will add 28 in- and beyond-perimeter flights at DCA, helping to boost competition, lower ticket prices and put Washington, D.C. within reach for millions more Americans.

The diversity of support for this effort clearly demonstrates its importance and potential impact. Who you are, where you come from and your socioeconomic status should not be a barrier to traveling to our nation’s capital. We must do everything we can to make the nation’s capital more accessible to all Americans, and we urge you to support legislative efforts to help meet that goal.

Sincerely,

American Latino Veterans Association

Baptists Ministers Conference of Los Angeles

The Borderplex Alliance

Breakfast Group

California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

California Hotel and Lodging Association

Coalition of California Chambers Orange County

Connoisseur Travel

Crystal Parking

Delta Air Lines

Economic Alliance of Lewis County

El Paso Chamber

El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

El Paso International Airport

Greater Albuquerque Chamber

greater:SATX

Hispanic Chambers of Commerce of San Francisco

Hola Mexico Film Festival

iParkSimple

Junior Achievement of Southern California

Laguna Hills Chamber of Commerce

Latin Business Association
Latino Restaurant Association
Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce
National Diversity Coalition
North San Antonio Chamber
Northern Virginia Hispanic American Chamber of Commerce
Omega World Travel
Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association
Portland Business Alliance
Salt Lake Chamber
San Antonio Chamber of Commerce
San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
San Jose Chamber of Commerce
San Juan Capistrano Chamber of Commerce
Seattle Latino Film Festival
Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California
Stemtac Foundation
Travel Portland
U.S. Pakistani International Chamber of Commerce
Utah Governor's Office of Economic Opportunity
Utah Tourism Industry Association
Valley Industry and Commerce Association
Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce
Washington Build Back Black Alliance