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June 19, 2015

The Office of Representative Comstock
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515



Dear Representative Comstock:



The Arlington Chamber of Commerce is writing to ask for your support on an issue of great importance to the County. Reagan National and Dulles International Airports are critical economic engines supporting over 52,000 jobs and over \$1.9 billion in direct, indirect and induced labor income in Arlington County. Maintaining a healthy balance of this two airport system is imperative for Arlington County and the Commonwealth of Virginia's continued success.



Reagan National and Dulles International are the federal government's airports, managed by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority since 1987. That transfer facilitated major capital improvement projects at both airports. For over two decades, passenger activity at Dulles International grew steadily. Reagan National stayed relatively stable at just over 15 million passengers, as the airport is governed by a limit on the number of takeoffs and landings per hour, called the "slot rule," and a restriction on the distance of non-stop flights known as the "perimeter rule."



However, those trends are now reversing as a result of Congressional actions and commercial transactions. Reagan National will overtake Dulles International in domestic enplanements in 2015. In the previous three FAA Reauthorization bills, Congress added more slots at Reagan, and allowed more flights to destinations outside the perimeter. Additionally, airline mergers and industry changes also brought more traffic to Reagan National. Not only are the estimated 22 million passengers straining Reagan National's already physically constrained infrastructure, but each time airlines shift flights from Dulles to Reagan, it widens the imbalance and makes Dulles less competitive. Arlington County and Northern Virginia rely on a healthy level of air service, including robust international offerings, if we are going to attract and retain businesses.



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As you know, work on the 2015 FAA Reauthorization bill is underway. The Arlington Chamber of Commerce is urging you to share with your colleagues in Congress, many of whom regularly use these airports, the importance of maintaining a balanced airport system.



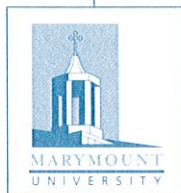
Sincerely,



Kevin Shooshan
Chair

Kate Roche
President & CEO

CC: Representative Beyer



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