

February 10, 2023

Secretary Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Acting Administrator Billy Nolen
Federal Aviation Administration
Office of the Associate Administrator for Airports (ARP)
800 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20591

RE: American Airlines Slot Exemption – Docket Number FAA-2015-3491-0424

Dear Secretary Buttigieg & Acting Administrator Nolen:

On behalf of Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express strong support of American Airlines' request to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to extend the exemption authorizing nonstop daily service between the Capital Region International Airport (LAN) in Lansing, Michigan and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) in Washington, D.C.

As the only daily flight between Michigan's capital and the nation's capital, we rely on this service to reach Washington, D.C. Without American's exemption, those traveling between mid-Michigan and Washington, D.C. will be denied nonstop service beginning October 2023, and will be forced to fly less preferable and more time-consuming alternatives. Lansing region businesses have worked on multiple occasions to obtain and then preserve LAN-DCA service, as LAN's only nonstop flight to any of the three Washington area airports.

American started service between LAN and DCA on July 5, 2016. Today, American is LAN's number one airline. Even as business travel has lagged due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Washington, D.C. has historically been Lansing's number one booked market, and load factors continue to see improvement as business travel resumes and our regional economy continues to rebound.

Additionally, the service to DCA also resulted in American adding nonstop service from LAN to Chicago O'Hare International Airport (ORD), giving travelers additional options and connection opportunities – with more than 100 domestic and 25 international destinations available from ORD, and 50 domestic destinations available from DCA. The relative connectivity American provides through these hubs to mid-Michigan residents both to the East Coast (via DCA) and West Coast (via ORD) is vitally important to both LAN and the region.

As Michigan's state capital and seat of state government, the home of Michigan State University, the insurance capital of Michigan and the center of more than 400 state associations, the greater Lansing business community views convenient air service to D.C. as essential. The annual economic impact of



*We Work Relentlessly to Help Businesses **Connect, Grow and Thrive.***

American's LAN-DCA service is nearly \$12 million. Obviously, the loss of this air service would have a major negative impact on those in mid-Michigan.

I can attest with confidence to the benefits of maintaining these flights. Extending American Airlines' service is a true "win-win-win" opportunity that will continue to help create and retain jobs in Michigan, grow our economy, and ensure that the Lansing region remains a cornerstone of mid-Michigan's development strategies.

I respectfully request the DOT and FAA to approve American Airlines' application for an extension of Exemption No. 15867 that will allow American to continue serving the DCA-LAN market until Oct. 28, 2028.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Tim Daman
President & CEO
Lansing Regional Chamber of Commerce