



Committee for Dulles

Connected. Involved. Effective.

July 20, 2015

The Honorable Barbara Comstock
Virginia 10th Congressional District
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Comstock:

The Committee for Dulles is a dynamic community of businesses, business leaders, policy makers and dedicated individuals. We represent businesses that have in excess of 10,000 employees. Founded in 1966, the Committee plays a pivotal role in making Dulles International Airport the premier air travel service provider for the national capital region and an economic feeder for the business community that surrounds it. We are the only business focused organization in the United States that supports a major international airport. The Committee for Dulles is dedicated to achieving the full potential of the airport and the economic growth of this region. We are writing to ask for your support as work on the 2015 FAA Reauthorization bill progresses. As you know, Reagan National and Dulles International Airports are powerful economic engines for the Dulles Region and Northern Virginia regions. In order to ensure our airport system's continued success, it is critical to modernize how airport improvements are financed.

Reagan National and Dulles International have been managed by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority since 1987. The transfer to the Airports Authority facilitated major capital improvement projects at both airports. One of the most useful tools enabling airport modernization is the Passenger Facility Charge (PFC).

The PFC is a locally collected user fee, set by the Airports Authority in collaboration with tenant airlines and approved by the federal government. It is tied to specific airport improvement projects that increase efficiency, enhance safety or capacity, reduce noise, or increases competitiveness. The PFC was first authorized in 1990. Its present \$4.50 cap was set by Congress fourteen years ago. Since then, its purchasing power has declined to \$2.45 due to the inflation of construction costs. Modernizing the PFC will give the traveling public more choices and lower fares by allowing local authorities to make improvements that will attract more airlines and service alternatives.

In the 2013 Infrastructure Report Card issued by the American Society of Civil Engineers, our nation's airports received a "D" rating. In fact, according to Skytrax, an agency that ranks world airports, none of America's airports rank within the top 25 in the world. In order to accommodate the expected 100 million international travelers expected by 2021, investments into our airports

are vitally important. Each visitor to the national capital region spends \$3,300 per visit, and our airports must be able to facilitate their efficient arrival and departure to remain competitive.

As you know, work on the 2015 FAA Reauthorization bill is underway. Thus, the Committee for Dulles is asking for your support. We urge you to share the importance of modernizing the PFC and investing in our airports with your fellow members of Congress on the authorizing committees. We look forward to working with you to ensure Reagan National and Dulles International remain world class airports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leo J. Titus, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leo J. Titus, Jr. PE,
President

cc:

Senator Mark Warner
Senator Tim Kaine
Congressman Gerry Connolly
Congressman Don Beyer

Senate Aviation Subcommittee
Chairwoman, Senator Kelly Ayotte
Ranking Member, Senator Maria Cantwell

House Aviation Subcommittee
Chairman, Congressman Frank Lobiondo
Ranking Member, Congressman Rick Larsen

Senate Commerce
Chairman, Senator John Thune
Ranking Member, Senator Bill Nelson

House Transportation Subcommittee
Chairman, Bill Schuster
Ranking Member, Congressman Peter Defazio