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June 3, 2024

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

Re: Alaska Airlines' application for SAN-DCA, Docket No. DOT-OST-2024

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

The City of Vista enthusiastically supports the application of Alaska Airlines to initiate nonstop air service between San Diego International Airport (SAN) and Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA or Reagan National). This new route is not only vital for enhancing the connectivity between the two strategic regions, but also supports the growing demand for nonstop service for both business and leisure passengers.

San Diego and Washington, D.C. are hubs of significant defense, economic, and social activity. San Diego's sectors in defense, biotech and communications technology require efficient access to the core of the national capital region. San Diego is the second largest government related travel market – driven by demand to key institutions closest to DCA including the Pentagon and Department of Homeland Security.

At 225 passengers daily each direction, not only does U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) data demonstrate that San Diego is the largest origin-destination market without service to Reagan National, the SAN-DCA market is the largest in the entire domestic network without nonstop service. The annual 180,000 passenger population between SAN and DCA have endured connections that add more than 360,000 hours annually of time inefficiency.

Alaska Airlines' reputation for exceptional service, reliability, and customer satisfaction make it the ideal carrier to bridge these two important markets. Alaska Airlines began serving SAN in 1985 and in the last 10 years has grown by more than 75%. Today that means about 6,500 guests served daily and 60 average daily departures from SAN. Adding a nonstop to DCA to Alaska Airlines' daily destinations from SAN will mean increased connectivity for our larger community, will fill a critical gap in the national air service network, and also provide a more streamlined, efficient service that will benefit the greatest number of passengers.

We appreciate your consideration of this application. We hope to hear of your favorable response to this request in the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

John B. Franklin
Mayor
City of Vista

cc: Office of Assemblymember Laurie Davis, assemblymember.davies@assembly.ca.gov
Office of Senator Catherine Blakespear, senator.blakespear@senate.ca.gov
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