

# U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

October 25, 2017

The Honorable Rodney Frelinghuysen  
Chairman, House Appropriations Committee  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
Ranking Member, House Appropriations  
Committee  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David E. Price  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development  
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Frelinghuysen and Diaz-Balart and Ranking Members Lowey and Price:

As diverse leaders of the travel industry from across the United States, we urge you to support language in the Senate's FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (THUD) that adjusts the airport Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) cap for originating passengers. Adjusting the PFC cap would accelerate investments in airport infrastructure that improve the passenger experience, facilitate growth in air travel, and make America's economy more globally competitive.

Air traveler spending in the United States generates significant economic activity, supports millions of American jobs, and improves our nation's quality of life. In 2015, domestic and inbound international air passengers spent \$409 billion, which directly supported 3.4 million American jobs. Over the next decade, air travel is forecast to grow from 776 million to 926 million enplanements per year, which could add an additional \$224 billion in annual travel spending and support 750,000 new American jobs. Unfortunately, this growth can only be realized if our airports have the financial resources to modernize and promote competition.

Too many of our nation's airports are outdated, congested and unable to handle passenger demand. These problems are forecasted to grow and will soon be unsustainable. Within the next four years, the top 30 U.S. airports will experience passenger volumes, congestion and delays equal to the day before Thanksgiving at least once per week. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) predicts that travel demand will exceed capacity at many of the nation's largest airports within the next 15 years, unless airports achieve sustainable levels of capital investment.

The Senate's FY 2018 THUD bill provides a fiscally responsible and revenue neutral solution to these challenges. The bill adjusts the federal limitation on PFC rates for originating passenger, which would allow each airport authority to tailor its PFC rate on a project-by-project basis, while protecting American travelers in rural communities from paying an increased PFC on connecting flights. It also empowers local airport authorities to accelerate investments in projects that improve efficiency, strengthen security, increase capacity and enhance airline competition, all of which benefit American travelers.

These remedies are exactly what America's air travel system needs and the benefits would stretch far beyond airports themselves – ultimately providing a better travel experience, facilitating economic growth, and keeping America's travel industry globally competitive.

We strongly urge you to support the inclusion of Senate THUD's PFC language in any year-end appropriations package. Thank you for your continued leadership to revitalize America's airports and improve the travel experience. We look forward to working with you on this and other important travel-related policies.

Sincerely,

Visit Anchorage	AK	Miles Partnership	FL
Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism	AR	Mise En Place	FL
American Samoa Visitors Bureau	AS	Naples, Marco Island, Everglades Convention & Visitors Bureau	FL
BEST WESTERN Pony Soldier Inn	AZ	National Association of Black Hotel Owners, Operators & Developers (NABHOOD)	FL
Experience Scottsdale	AZ	Tampa International Airport	FL
Simpleview	AZ	Universal Parks & Resorts	FL
Visit Mesa	AZ	VIP Dine 4Less Card	FL
Visit Phoenix	AZ	Visit Orlando	FL
Visit Tucson	AZ	Zimble Rentals, Inc.	FL
ADARA, Inc.	CA	InterContinental Hotels Group (IHG)	GA
California Hotel & Lodging Association	CA	Society of Independent Show Organizers (SISO)	GA
California Travel Association	CA	Visit Savannah	GA
Destination Irvine	CA	City of Waterloo, Iowa dba Waterloo Regional Airport	IA
Hotel Zephyr	CA	Des Moines International Airport	IA
LA City Tours	CA	Dubuque Regional Airport	IA
Los Angeles Tourism & Convention Board	CA	Fort Dodge Regional Airport	IA
Los Angeles World Airports	CA	Greater Cedar Valley Alliance	IA
San Francisco Travel Association	CA	Greater Des Moines Partnership	IA
Santa Monica Travel & Tourism	CA	Humble Travel Service, Ltd.	IA
Seaplane Adventures	CA	ITA Group	IA
Sonoma County Tourism	CA	THE TRAVEL CENTER, LTD	IA
Visit Huntington Beach	CA	CityPASS	ID
Visit Santa Barbara	CA	Alton Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau	IL
Visit Tri-Valley	CA	Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau	IL
Visit West Hollywood	CA	Chicago's First Lady Cruises	IL
Colorado Springs Convention & Visitors Bureau	CO	Financial & Insurance Conference Professionals	IL
Denver International Airport	CO	Abilene Convention & Visitors Bureau	KS
Rocky Mountain Holiday Tours	CO	International Inbound Travel Association	KY
VISIT DENVER, The Convention & Visitors Bureau	CO	National Tour Association	KY
Events Industry Council	DC	VisitLEX	KY
U.S. Travel Association	DC	Lake Charles Convention & Visitors Bureau	LA
Delaware North	DE	Louisiana Office of Tourism	LA
American Executive International Corporation	FL	New Orleans Convention & Visitors Bureau	LA
Doubletree by Hilton Orlando at SeaWorld	FL	Greater Boston Convention & Visitors Bureau	MA
Experience Kissimmee	FL		
Fort Lauderdale Convention & Visitors Bureau, Greater	FL		
Greater Orlando Aviation Authority	FL		
Historic Tours of America	FL		

Huntington Hotel Group, Boston	MA	Discover Lehigh Valley	PA
Plymouth County Convention & Visitors Bureau	MA	Providence Warwick Convention & Visitors Bureau	RI
CHOICE HOTELS INTERNATIONAL, INC	MD	Charleston Area Convention & Visitors Bureau	SC
Marriott International	MD	Experience Columbia SC	SC
Marshall Hotels & Resorts	MD	Myrtle Beach Area Convention & Visitors Bureau	SC
Visit Annapolis & Anne Arundel County	MD	South Dakota Department of Tourism	SD
Maine Tourism Association	ME	Memphis Convention & Visitors Bureau	TN
Discover Kalamazoo	MI	Nashville Convention & Visitors Corp	TN
Great Lakes Bay Regional Convention & Visitors Bureau	MI	STR	TN
Mall of America	MN	Arlington CVB	TX
Minneapolis Northwest Tourism	MN	Beaumont Convention and Visitors Bureau	TX
Visit Duluth	MN	Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport	TX
Heart of North Carolina Visitors Bureau	NC	Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau	TX
Raleigh Convention & Visitors Bureau, Greater	NC	International Association of Exhibitions & Events	TX
Visit North Carolina	NC	Irving Convention & Visitors Bureau	TX
Young Strategies, Inc.	NC	Texas Commercial Airports Association	TX
Bismarck-Mandan Convention & Visitors Bureau	ND	Texas Travel Industry Association	TX
Devils Lake CVB	ND	Visit San Antonio	TX
Fargo-Moorhead Convention & Visitors Bureau	ND	VisitDallas	TX
Grand Forks Convention & Visitors Bureau, Greater	ND	Trek America Travel Ltd	UK
Jamestown Tourism	ND	Goulding's Lodge and Tours	UT
Jamestown, ND City Council	ND	Utah's Canyon Country	UT
North Dakota Tourism Division	ND	B-FOR International	VA
Wyndham Worldwide	NJ	Hilton	VA
BEST WESTERN Discovery Inn	NM	International Association of Amusement Parks and Attractions (IAAPA)	VA
Bonotel Exclusive Travel	NV	Interstate Hotels & Resorts	VA
Caesars Entertainment, Inc.	NV	Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority	VA
McCarran International Airport	NV	National Golf Course Owners Association	VA
Papillon Grand Canyon Helicopters	NV	Richmond Region Tourism	VA
Rezdy LLC	NV	Student & Youth Travel Association	VA
United States Tour Operators Association	NY	Visit Seattle	WA
Visit Buffalo Niagara	NY	Visit Vancouver USA	WA
Longwoods International	OH		
Ohio Travel Association	OH		
Oklahoma Travel Industry Association	OK		
Central Oregon Visitors Association	OR		
Port of Portland	OR		
Travel Oregon	OR		
Travel Portland	OR		
Butler County Tourism & Convention Bureau	PA		
Destination Gettysburg	PA		