

March 26, 2024

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

We are writing today to express our disappointment in the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) order to terminate the approval of the Joint Cooperative Agreement (JCA) between Delta Air Lines and Aeromexico and urge the Administration to carefully consider the ramifications of terminating the approval of the JCA and address its policy objectives with Mexico through direct consultation and other options available to the Department.

We firmly believe that the Government of Mexico should adhere to the requirements set forth in the U.S.-Mexico air services agreement, however it is in the best interests of the United States and our constituents that DOT evaluate other policy options beyond arbitrarily ending this strategic partnership that provides significant benefits to U.S. travelers and businesses, particularly in Georgia. It is our hope that the negotiations between the U.S. government and Mexico can continue so Georgians are not burdened with the consequences of this decision.

The termination of the JCA between the two airlines would pose a significant risk of canceling up to two dozen flight routes between the U.S. and Mexico. This includes the direct routes between Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport and Guadalajara International Airport (GDL), Guanajuato International Airport (BJX), Merida International Airport (MID), Monterrey International Airport (MTY), Queretaro Intercontinental Airport (QRO) that over 662,000 passengers flew in 2023. These routes were started after the JCA was implemented and would likely be at significant risk if the JCA was terminated.

The Department's action would disrupt seamless leisure and business travel between the U.S. and Mexico and would harm Georgia's economy. Mexico is Georgia's second largest trade partner, and trade with Mexico supports 157,000 Georgia jobs. In 2022, the last year of complete data, the trade value between Mexico and the State of Georgia was \$3.7 billion, an increase from \$3.1 billion in 2021. Critical industries in Georgia such as Forestry Products, Advanced Electronics, Construction Materials, Aluminum Products, and Agriculture all rely on a strong relationship between Georgia and Mexico to do business. The direct flights from ATL to key Mexican hubs combined with easy one-stop connections to points throughout Mexico, enabled by the JCA, are important as Georgia continues to grow its trade opportunities with Mexico.

The tentative decision to end the JCA approval is extreme, punitive, and unprecedented. The Administration should not seek to achieve an unrelated diplomatic goal at the expense of American jobs

and travelers. While we respect and share the DOT's concerns over the recent actions of the Mexican government, we firmly believe that other measures can be taken to resolve these issues.

Thank you for your consideration on this critical issue as we work to protect American economic growth and support U.S. jobs.

Sincerely,



A. Drew Ferguson IV
Member of Congress



Nikema Williams
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



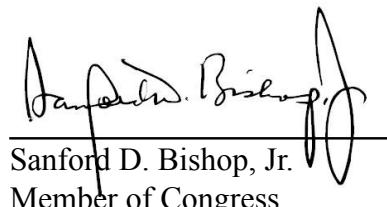
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter
Member of Congress



Lucy McBath
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
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Barry Loudermilk
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