

# U.S. TRAVEL ASSOCIATION

October 25, 2017

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Appropriations  
113 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman, Senate Committee on  
Appropriations  
437 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Susan Collins  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Transportation,  
Housing and Urban Development  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jack Reed  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on  
Transportation, Housing and Urban Development  
728 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairmen Cochran and Collins, Vice Chairman Leahy, and Ranking Member Reed:

As diverse leaders of the travel industry from across the United States, we urge you to retain provisions in the Senate's FY 2018 Transportation, Housing and Urban Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act (THUD) that adjust 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Too many of our nation's airports are outdated, congested and unable to handle passenger demand.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,

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

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