

All,

United Airlines respectfully requests that your boss oppose the Cuellar Amendment #147 to the FAA bill which could jeopardize current flights from your state to Washington, DC.

- The Cuellar amendment would change slot and perimeter rules at Reagan National Airport (DCA) to pick winners (San Antonio and San Diego) and losers (potentially your state), by earmarking slots that can only be used to serve those limited destinations at the expense of inside-the-perimeter communities. Importantly, San Antonio and San Diego are already connected to D.C. via direct flights to Dulles and Baltimore Washington International.
- Slot rules at DCA help ensure the safety of passengers and aircraft on an airfield constricted by space and runway length, while the perimeter statute protects air service to smaller airports and communities (see map below). DCA and Dulles were designed to operate as a complementary integrated system and are managed by the same airport authority. The Cuellar Amendment would undermine this delicate balance between the region's airports.
- Due to slot rules at DCA, route planning is a zero-sum game—airlines can't add flights to a new destination without taking them from another. While the amendment claims to only remove service from large, inside-the-perimeter airports, there is nothing in the amendment or current law that would prevent airlines from pulling down flights to small and medium airports to backfill this service. **Even if your state is outside the perimeter below, if it is served from Dulles, that service could be jeopardized as the balance between DCA and Dulles is weakened by the Cuellar Amendment.** The net result is that your community, regardless of size, could lose service.
- United Airlines opposes the Cuellar Amendment because as with past changes to DCA operational rules, it would have a negative impact on flights offered at nearby Dulles airport and inevitably reduce service to communities currently served out of both DCA and Dulles. For these reasons, United Airlines strongly opposes this amendment and requests your boss vote against it.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like more information.

Best,

Adam

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