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April 21, 2020

The Honorable Joel Szabat
Assistant Secretary of Aviation and International Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket DOT-OST-2020-0037

Dear Assistant Secretary Szabat:

On behalf of Reno Tahoe International Airport, I am writing to express our support for JetBlue's Petition for Reconsideration of the Department's Notice of Action Taken issued on April 16, 2020. JetBlue has requested an exemption to temporarily suspend service to RNO through June 10, 2020.

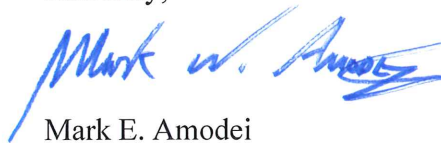
As you know, the COVID-19 Pandemic has impacted air travel in ways both dramatic and unprecedented. Airlines around the world have dramatically reduced their schedules and the flights that are operating have load factors in the single digits. While travel between states in this country has not been limited by government restrictions as have flights between the United States and many other countries, the de facto result is the same.

As many communities, including ours, continue to enforce social distancing and stay-at-home orders, I recognize that demand for air travel – particularly leisure travel – will not significantly increase in the next two months. For that reason, I wholeheartedly support JetBlue's request to temporarily suspend operations at RNO for two months.

By granting JetBlue an exemption and permitting temporary suspension at RNO, the Department will enable JetBlue to preserve its liquidity rather than being forced to fly transcontinental flights with just a handful of customers – leading to unreasonable expense as well as detrimental environmental impact that should be avoided.

The CARES Act requires that airlines maintain a level of air service to communities, but clearly provides the Department the ability to grant exemptions where reasonable and practicable. A two month suspension of service at RNO clearly meets that definition, and I urge you to grant the exemption to JetBlue.

Sincerely,



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress