



CHARLESTON COUNTY AVIATION AUTHORITY

CHARLESTON INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT • 5500 INTERNATIONAL BLVD. • #101 • CHARLESTON, SC 29418-6911

TELE: (843) 767-7000 • FAX: (843) 760-3020

WWW.CHS-AIRPORT.COM

March 20, 2015

Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowski
United States Customs & Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Kerlikowski:

I understand the Government of Canada has formally applied on behalf of Toronto's downtown Billy Bishop Toronto City Airport (BBTCA) to include BBTCA in the US preclearance system in Canada. I support including BBTCA in this successful system as it will bolster homeland security and facilitate key trade with our most important trade partner.

The downtown Toronto City Airport is unique on a number of fronts. First, it is a very busy Canadian airport – and the only one at its scale without preclearance. Since 2006, hundreds of millions of dollars have gone into the airport and enplanements have soared. The airport was recently named one of the top ten regional airports in North America. It will soon be the sixth busiest airport in Canada when measured by enplanements to the United States and is the only airport in the top nine when so measured without preclearance. Second, because of its location and operational limitations, it is perfectly suited for airlines to offer direct, non-stop international air service to small- and mid-sized airports in the United States, such as Charleston, creating easy access to the United States closest trading partner from important, smaller markets. Third, its downtown location taps into new travelers to the United States. These are people who otherwise would visit and invest in other markets.

Cities such as Charleston see the value of such direct, non-stop service to regional economies. With preclearance, the potential of business with Toronto becomes limited only by imagination rather than logistics.

We do appreciate CBP works very hard to facilitate service to many airports not typically staffed or designed to handle direct, international commercial service, including Charleston International Airport. It seems creating a central preclearance facility at BBTCA would meet core CBP missions and alleviate staffing and budget pressures at US airports while also increasing cross-border travel and trade.

Commissioner R. Gil Kerlikowski
United States Customs & Border Protection
March 20, 2015
Page Two

Finally, although no US carrier currently operates out of BBTCA, there is a history at the airport offering slots to US carriers. Further, we understand if and when slots become available in the future US carriers serving US destinations will be the Airport's number one priority in reviewing responses to an RFP put out to airlines interested in flying from BBTCA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul G. Campbell, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Senator Paul G. Campbell, Jr.
Director of Airports

PGC/tba

cc: Dylan DeFrancisci, Director Preclearance, US Customs and Border Protection
The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security
The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
The Honorable Penny Pritzker, Secretary of Commerce