# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

June 1, 2007

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Madame Secretary:

We are writing regarding the Department's recently secured expansion of U.S. carrier rights to China. The new route rights provide an important opportunity for Michigan to secure the new nonstop China service Northwest Airlines wants to provide from its state-of-the-art WorldGateway hub at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

As you may know, we were very disappointed that Northwest was not selected last year for Detroit-Shanghai service. Now that the Department has many more frequencies available we urge you to immediately award the newly available China frequencies at least through 2009, so that the State of Michigan, the City of Detroit, and Northwest Airlines can have an opportunity to benefit from the availability of these additional China route rights.

Northwest's Detroit hub is a major employer in Southeast Michigan, and the establishment of nonstop China service is critical to Northwest's future, to jobs growth, and to the competitiveness of the Detroit hub. Furthermore, improved nonstop service is important to the growing manufacturing and industrial ties between companies in Michigan and China. The Department has authorized multiple nonstop services from East Coast hubs in recent years, and recently awarded a 5th frequency to United, Northwest's largest competitor. We hope the DOT will use the substantial new opportunities that are available to provide Northwest with the frequencies and future route planning certainty it needs to respond in China.

The Department has conducted multi-year consolidated cases in the past, such as the recent 2005/2006 China case, and deciding the route awards through 2009 avoids the cost and inefficiency of conducting immediately sequential route cases. We therefore urge the Department to promptly award the available opportunities using expedited proceedings.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Debbie Stabenow

Carl Levin