



For Immediate Release

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US DOT Awards Route to United Airlines at Dulles Airport for Capital-to-Capital Connection between Beijing and Washington

The Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority is delighted the U.S. Department of Transportation has selected United Airlines to provide direct service to Beijing, China from Washington Dulles International Airport. We would like to thank our regional partners and the top elected officials in the Commonwealth of Virginia, the state of Maryland and the District of Columbia and the area Congressional leadership for their support in this important filing with the US Department of Transportation for first-time service between the capitals of the United States and China.

Said James E. Bennett, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Airports Authority, "Dulles has become one of the nation's largest international airports, serving 27 million customers in 2005, almost 5 million of whom were international passengers. Dulles is one of the leading economic engines in the Metropolitan Washington Region, employing 19,414 people and generating \$11.8 billion dollars for the local economy in combined direct airport spending and associated spending in the visitor industry.

"We believe we made a compelling case for this direct service to the capital of China and are very appreciative of all the support we received throughout the region, across state and political interests, for this service.

"This decision by the U.S. Department of Transportation will fill this critical gap in transportation between these two countries. Dulles is emerging as one of the nation's great airports, and the Airports Authority is committed to realizing its full potential and to provide the Nation's Capital with world-class facilities, services and access to the global economy."

In making the case for the China route, the Airports Authority stressed these major factors:

- The benefits of this service will extend to many U.S. communities that are part of the extensive Dulles Airport domestic route network.
- The Washington region has the largest U.S.-China and U.S.-Beijing market without nonstop service.
- The Washington region has the largest population among U.S. communities without nonstop service to China.
- The Airports Authority is investing billions of dollars to provide world-class facilities and this important capital-to-capital service will benefit from that investment.

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