



March 8, 2022

Brooke Chapman
Associate Director, Small Community Air Service Development Program
U.S. Department of Transportation
Office of Aviation Analysis, 8th Floor, Room W86-307
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Docket DOT-OST-2022-003

RE: Corpus Christi International Airport SCASDP Grant Application

Dear Ms. Chapman:

On behalf of the United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, I write in support of the application of Corpus Christi International Airport (CCIA) for a Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) grant. We believe that the proposed grant will significantly enhance the business environment in the Coastal Bend region, both by improving access to the rest of the country for local businesses and by making it easier for visitors to come to Corpus Christi and contribute to the local economy.

CCIA is the most convenient airport for Corpus Christi and the greater Coastal Bend region, but the limited nonstop flight service and high fares relative to competing airports have caused many travelers to drive more than two hours to airports in San Antonio, Austin, or Houston in order to have greater access to direct flights to the places where we need to travel.

The proposed grant, which would support a revenue guarantee and marketing campaign for new nonstop service to Denver International Airport (DEN), would significantly enhance the attractiveness of CCIA by providing convenient service to an important origin and destination market. Current travel data shows Denver as the largest unserved market from CCIA, but most travelers flying to or from Denver use other airports. Nonstop service to Denver would give travelers access to another hub that connects the entire western half of the United States, which in many cases will be more convenient compared to current route options from CCIA.

We are aware of and strongly support CCIA's efforts to encourage the community to fly local and are committed to using CCIA when it makes sense to do so. Adding nonstop service to Denver and the connecting routes it provides would significantly increase the trips where we would choose to fly CCIA. Additionally, we think the nonstop service to Denver would help grow our nationwide tourism industry.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of CCIA's SCASDP grant application. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need any additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John P. LaRue". The signature is stylized and cursive.

John P. LaRue
President & CEO