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27TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 11, 2022

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The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Corpus Christi International Airport SCASDP Grant Application

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

As the Congressman for the 27th District of Texas, I write in support of Corpus Christi International Airport's (CCIA) application for a Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) grant.

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 more destinations. The airport also connects the Coastal Bend region's residents and businesses, including the energy sector, universities, and our military facilities to the world.

The proposed grant, would support a revenue guarantee and marketing campaign for new nonstop service to Denver International Airport (DEN), would assist CCIA's efforts to encourage both residents and visitors to use CCIA. Denver is CCIA's top unserved destination based on U.S. Department of Transportation data, and leakage data show that approximately 76% of local area residents who fly to Denver use other airports, with nonstop service and average fares that are 36-45% lower than CCIA. The greater Denver area is the number one inbound air market for Corpus Christi, and cell phone data show that there are also a significant number of travelers who drive between Colorado and Corpus Christi, some of whom would likely fly if convenient, nonstop service was available.

This proposal is strongly supported by the local business and community leadership. 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.

Thank you in advance for your full and fair consideration of CCIA's SCASDP grant application. Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office if I can answer any questions or be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress
27th Congressional District of Texas