

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

August 27, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary of Transportation
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SW
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood,

We write to urge the Department of Transportation (DOT) to support a US Airways' application to obtain slots at London Heathrow Airport (Heathrow) from the European Union (EU) that would provide first-ever Heathrow service to Charlotte Douglas International Airport (Charlotte).

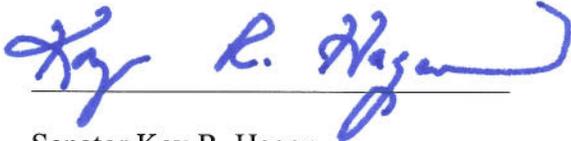
As part of the EU's approval of the American Airlines/British Airways joint venture, the carriers were required to divest slots at Heathrow. For the first time, the divested slots can be used to fly to the United States through any U.S. gateway. The EU recently initiated a carrier selection process, and US Airways has submitted an application to serve Heathrow via Charlotte. We understand that the DOT will play a role in the carrier selection process and encourage you to support this new service that would be economically beneficial to the City of Charlotte, the State of North Carolina and consumers, businesses and shippers throughout the Carolinas and beyond.

The City of Charlotte enjoys a dynamic business environment, which has steadily attracted investment from the United Kingdom (U.K.). There are over 80 U.K.-owned businesses in the City of Charlotte that employ approximately 7,000 local residents, and the U.K. is the fifth largest export market for North Carolina goods. Despite these links, Charlotte has no nonstop service to Heathrow. US Airways' application resolves this problem and adds Heathrow to the over 120 destinations from Charlotte across nearly 700 daily flights.

A new Charlotte-London Heathrow service significantly impacts travelers, shippers and businesses throughout North Carolina and the Southeastern United States, by providing access to one of the world's most critical airports. A Charlotte-Heathrow flight not only easily connects business travelers, but it helps open new business markets; creates new jobs; and new opportunities for Carolina companies.

We urge you to support US Airways' application to obtain slots from the European Union to connect Charlotte Douglas International Airport and London Heathrow Airport. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you need further assistance.

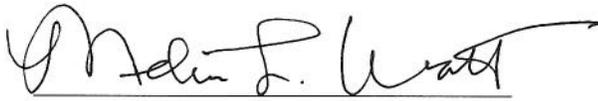
Sincerely,



Senator Kay R. Hagan



Senator Richard Burr



Representative Mel Watt



Representative Sue Myrick

Cc: Susan Kurland, Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs