



March 13, 2017

Dear Members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation:

While we don't often reach out to you on specific legislation, I'm writing today to ask for your support on a bill that would allow Denver International Airport (DEN) to grow with the demand of our airlines and passengers, the "Investing in America: Rebuilding America's Airport Infrastructure Act" (H.R. 1265).

H.R.1265 would eliminate the federal cap on the local Passenger Facility Charge (PFC) and restore the purchasing power of the locally imposed fee that has not been raised since 2000. The bill has bi-partisan sponsorship, and it will dramatically help DEN generate much-needed revenue for critical security and expansion projects.

Despite our urgent need to expand the facility to meet present-day demand, PFCs do not provide any relief for us today. At DEN, PFC revenues are still committed to the original construction cost of the airport and will be for the next decade. We acknowledge the longstanding debate between airlines and airports on this issue. DEN believes a local user fee is the most cost-effective option for both our airport *and* our partner airlines. It also allows airports to fund projects without relying on limited federal resources.

As you know, DEN is in the process of overhauling our Great Hall to meet the challenges of the modern, pre-security threat at airports and establish a national model for an efficient and secure travel experience. At the same time, we are growing rapidly. DEN served a record-setting 58.3 million passengers in 2016, a nearly eight percent increase over the record we set in 2015. We are about to embark on a major expansion of our concourses to meet the (welcomed) demand for new gates as our airline partners continue to expand service to the Denver metro area.

We're doing everything we can as an enterprise. We're bringing our own resources to the table, prioritizing projects, and we are in the process of entering a public-private partnership on our Great Hall project. But we still need your help. Eliminating the PFC cap would allow airports to build critical infrastructure without relying on a large influx of scarce federal funds. In fact, H.R. 1265 reduces the federal footprint of airports:

- Reduces the federal grant program by \$400 million (Airport Improvement Program (AIP)); and
- Eliminates AIP entitlements for large hub airports that choose to impose PFCs above the current statutory cap of \$4.50.

As Colorado's most powerful economic engine, we want to ensure that DEN continues to be the leading asset for economic development and job growth in the region. To keep pace with the growing traffic and evolving security threats, DEN needs to invest and modernize. Increasing our ability to adjust PFCs will significantly help DEN reach its goals. **Please support H.R. 1265**

Sincerely,

Kim Day
Chief Executive Officer

