

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2011

Mr. Richard Anderson
Delta Air Lines, Inc.
1030 Delta Boulevard
Atlanta, GA 30320-6001

Dear Mr. Anderson:

I have been disappointed to read of the continued reduction in flights and high fares at the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Airport (CVG). Despite numerous assurances from Delta Airlines, I continue to hear from many in the Greater Cincinnati region about the high ticket prices at CVG. This inability to purchase affordable tickets or to fly directly to important domestic and international destinations hurts consumers and puts the local business community at a competitive disadvantage.

Certainly the last decade has been particularly difficult and marked by numerous uncertainties for passenger airlines. Yet, mirroring the improvement in our domestic economy, the past year has seen a surge in Delta's corporate profits and an increase in originating traffic at CVG. Despite these positive signs, Delta continues to under serve the Cincinnati region.

Before and after the merger between Delta and Northwest Airlines was approved, many in the region were led to believe that the company would maintain service similar to pre-merger levels. In fact it is my understanding that the business community in Cincinnati was supportive of the merger under the condition that flight levels would be maintained and international service could potentially expand. Clearly this has not been the experience for the travelers and businesses that rely on CVG.

Over the past decade there has been a dramatic decrease in the number of departures operated by Delta at CVG. In January 2007 for instance, 1,716 domestic flights operated by Delta departed from CVG. Yet by January 2010, that number had shrunk to 829—a 52% decrease. The number of international departures, unfortunately, also reflects this trend: 107 international flights in January 2007 versus only 50 in January 2010. Again, this is more than a 50% reduction in flights. Most disconcerting, however, has been the reduction in the number of destinations served—from 116 to 77—over the same period, including the recent loss of direct international flights to London, Frankfurt, and Amsterdam. A continued decrease in flights will be a serious detriment to the economic growth of the Cincinnati region and a great hindrance to businesses that depend on a wide variety of domestic and transatlantic flights.

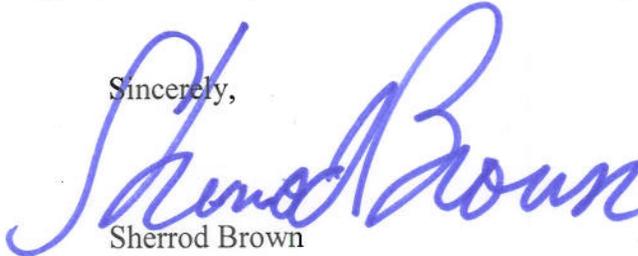
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For years Delta has been an important corporate citizen in the region and the hub at CVG has contributed significantly to the local economy over that time. Yet it is clear to me that continued high ticket prices and lower service levels at CVG both holds back and harms the fragile economic recovery of Greater Cincinnati. I believe that now is the time to rebuild the CVG hub in a way that benefits passengers, the region, and Delta and I look forward to working with you to achieve this.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator