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SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 16, 2011

Dr. Michael L. Robinson
Board Chair
Kenton County Airport Board
P.O. Box 752000
Cincinnati, OH 45275

Dear Dr. Robinson:

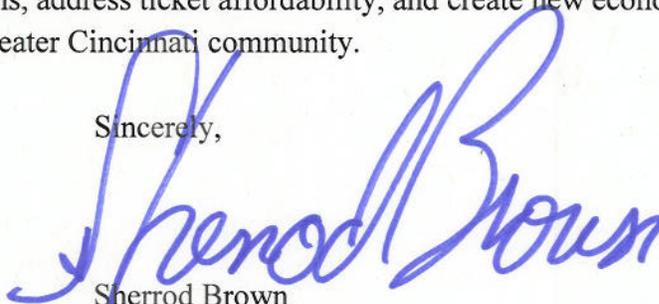
I know you and your fellow board members share my concern regarding the substantial reduction of flights and cities served at the Cincinnati-Northern Kentucky Airport. Our region is home to major domestic and international companies like Proctor & Gamble, GE Aviation, Toyota, and dozens of foreign based companies that have chosen the region in part because of the travel access provided at CVG. CVG is crucial to regional economic development and I write both to express my concern about airport issues and request information on how the Board plans to address these issues.

Clearly, the merger of Delta and Northwest Airlines has not benefited CVG nor, as many Ohioans have written me, passengers. Ticket prices remain some of the highest in the nation, and on-time departures lag behind the national average. It is my understanding that the continued high ticket prices are due in part to a lack of competition at the airport and the lack of so-called low cost carriers like Southwest Airlines and JetBlue.

As the Kenton County Airport Board is responsible for overseeing the airport, I would like to know what actions the board is taking to attract new airlines, lower ticket costs, and increase passenger traffic at CVG. Additionally, what actions could be taken by the State of Ohio, Kentucky, or the congressional delegation representing the airport that would help the aims of the airport board?

The airport is critical to our region's long-term economic success and can play an important role in our ongoing economic recovery. I appreciate the work you do and look forward to working with you to enhance travel options, address ticket affordability, and create new economic and business opportunities for the Greater Cincinnati community.

Sincerely,



Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

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