

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

June 1, 2022

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

As members of the Georgia delegation, we write to express our full support for Delta Air Lines' (Delta) application for non-stop service to Cape Town International Airport in South Africa from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport.

For well over a decade, Georgians and travelers from across the United States have depended on Delta's global network for connection to South Africa and other destinations across the African continent. Delta's proposed service would allow travelers to fly non-stop to Cape Town from Atlanta for the first time in history. In addition to strengthening Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport's position as a leading gateway to the world, the approval of Delta's application has the potential to benefit the public by enhancing competition as well as travel and trade opportunities. Delta estimates that this new route would have an annual local economic impact of \$75-150 million. Furthermore, Delta will fly its largest aircraft, the A350-900, to Cape Town, carrying up to 95,000 passengers per year.

Currently, U.S. travelers can only access Cape Town non-stop through Newark, New Jersey. The addition of Delta's proposed Atlanta-Cape Town service, paired with Delta's existing connecting network, is expected to offer travelers more flexibility and more choice. Delta's Atlanta hub provides service to top domestic destinations, as well as other key markets in North America. For example, this summer, Delta will offer nearly 800 daily departures from Atlanta to 167 non-stop destinations. If approved, Delta's Atlanta-Cape Town service would offer 103 unique, one-stop connections to South African travelers.

In addition to the potential competitive and consumer benefits, we also encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation's review to examine Delta's engagement with the African continent. In December 2006, Delta became the first major U.S. airline to operate non-stop service following Pan Am's suspension of flights in the 1980s. Delta also provides marketed codeshare flights operated by Kenya Airways within Africa to and from Liberia, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda, with onward connections to Delta's network. Delta also does business directly with African-owned and operated Small and Medium Enterprises.

The approval of the Atlanta-Cape Town route will allow Delta to strengthen its partnership with the people of South Africa and improve America's access to this remarkable part of the world.

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

Thank you for your consideration of this request as we work together to restore international travel demand, enhance the passenger experience, increase consumer choice, and support U.S. jobs.

Sincerely,



---

Reverend Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



---

Jon Ossoff  
United States Senator



---

Carolyn Bourdeaux  
Member of Congress



---

Lucy McBath  
Member of Congress



---

Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.  
Member of Congress



---

Nikema Williams  
Member of Congress



---

David Scott  
Member of Congress



---

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.  
Member of Congress