



July 19, 2016

The Honorable Anthony Foxx
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for JetBlue's Application to Serve Boston-Havana
Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Business Roundtable – a public policy organization comprised of CEOs and senior leadership from the state's largest employers – I write to request that the Department of Transportation (DOT) reconsider the July 7, 2016 tentative decision regarding U.S. routes to Havana, Cuba. By not approving a single flight from Boston Logan International Airport (BOS) to Havana (HAV), DOT is essentially shutting out the entire New England region from easy access to the island nation.

In today's knowledge-based global economy, it is essential that that the nation's leading education, healthcare, biotechnology, financial and cultural institutions in Massachusetts and New England have nonstop access to Havana to link these vital sectors with new opportunities in Cuba.

DOT's decision in choosing which cities would receive service to Havana was a difficult one. While basing its decisions almost entirely on the size of population of the local Cuban community is wholly understandable, opting not to equally consider the economic, cultural and educational opportunities that nonstop service would provide a city and region, particularly in the case of Boston and New England, will limit trade and business opportunities and the many benefits, economic and otherwise, that will flow from it. Boston, Massachusetts, and New England is one of the nation's pre-eminent economic, innovation, biotech, medical and academic centers, and should have the opportunity to grow internationally with scheduled air service to Havana.

The Roundtable respectfully urges DOT to reconsider its tentative decision and grant JetBlue Airways the authority to serve Havana from Boston, on a daily, or even a less-than-daily frequency basis. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JD Chesloff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

JD Chesloff
Executive Director