

June 20, 2023

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Cantwell, Senator Cruz, Representative Graves, and Representative Larsen,

The Consumer Technology Association (CTA) is proud to formally endorse H.R. 3185, *The Direct Capital Access Act*. We are writing to ask you to support adding this bipartisan bill to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization package this year.

The Direct Capital Access Act would add 28 new in- and beyond-perimeter flights to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA). The legislation is germane, bipartisan and good for the traveling public.

A recent [study](#) by one of the country's top management consulting firms has uncovered several issues specific to DCA:

1. DCA is underused in comparison to other major U.S. metropolitan airports.
2. Washington D.C. has the highest average domestic airline ticket prices of any major U.S. metropolitan area - costing consumers more than \$500 million annually in above-average flight prices.
3. Low supply-demand ratio forces passengers to take more connecting flights and layovers, costing them \$200 million in lost productivity.
4. Passengers traveling to Washington, D.C. are particularly prone to layovers and connecting flights.

For nearly 60 years, DCA has been subject to a federally imposed "perimeter" rule which limits the number of flights allowed to land or take off outside a 1,250-mile radius. It's the only airport in the country subject to federally imposed constraints of this nature.

The arbitrary limitations applied to DCA hurt the efforts of consumer technology companies—particularly those out west—to maintain a strong presence in our nation's capital region, where statutory and regulatory decisions are made.

As you know, we own and produce CES, the most influential technology trade show in the world. People from around the country and the world come to Las Vegas to see the latest in technology and

innovation. But today there is only one nonstop flight between Las Vegas and DCA. Additionally, major tech hubs such as San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego, Seattle, Salt Lake City, Denver and Phoenix all have a severely limited number of direct flights to and from Washington, D.C. especially out of DCA. This would not be the case but for the outdated perimeter rule.

Locally, our office sits squarely in the National Landing and Amazon HQ2 area which is poised to be a major tech hub on the east coast in Northern Virginia. As part of the development, a pedestrian bridge will be constructed so that National Landing residents and businesses can walk to DCA. Given National Landing's proximity to DCA, it is burdensome for tech leaders to have to travel to Dulles airport to head back and forth between western cities with a significant number of tech companies and talent.

Further, forcing local employees to use Dulles airport makes little sense from a sustainability standpoint. The added travel milage wastes fuel and increases congestion on highways, like Interstate 66 and the Dulles access road. Increased long-haul travel from DCA allows CTA's 150 employees the choice to fly directly from their local airport and improves the DC area economy as business travelers access DC more quickly.

At CTA, our mandate is to help strengthen the \$505 billion consumer technology industry which supports more than 18 million American jobs and counting. Adding just 28 daily flights at DCA, as *The Direct Capital Access Act* does, will help reverse decades of damage stemming from the perimeter rule. It will bring greater competition, drive down prices, reduce travel time to and from the East Coast, and help foster greater collaboration and connectivity within the consumer technology industry.

On behalf of the more than 1000 consumer technology companies which CTA represents, we respectfully ask that you support the *Direct Capital Access Act* as Congress considers the FAA Reauthorization legislation this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary Shapiro". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gary" being more prominent than the last name "Shapiro".

Gary Shapiro
President and CEO
Consumer Technology Association