March 8, 2019

The Honorable Elaine Chao  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Madam Secretary:

We write to encourage you to approve flights from Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport to Tokyo International Airport (Haneda Airport) and to express our support for Delta Air Lines’ application to provide that service (DOT-OST-2019-0014).

We appreciate that your Department has worked to negotiate enhanced service between the United States and Japan. New flights to Haneda will improve competitive service offerings across the Pacific by bringing businesses and consumers closer to central Tokyo. We believe it is in the interest of the traveling public to promote healthy competition between all carriers serving Haneda.

Hartsfield-Jackson and Haneda are two of the four busiest airports in the world, serving more than 189 million passengers combined in 2017. We believe that Delta’s proposal represents a real opportunity to enrich links between the regions they serve, while providing one-stop service to 154 communities in the United States and facilitating economic activity across the Southeast.

As you may know, the State of Georgia has strong economic ties to Japan, which is the largest source of international investment and home to companies that employ more than 30,000 Georgians. In Atlanta, Japan operates a consulate general and a trade office to support this robust relationship and constant movement of goods, people, and services.

These relations extend beyond business. Universities in Georgia offer nearly 40 study abroad programs in Japan, and ten Georgia cities have sister-city agreements with Japanese communities. In 2016, more than 30,000 Japanese tourists visited Georgia, and estimates project a 14 percent increase in tourism by 2020. A direct connection between Atlanta and Haneda airports will only bolster these critical ties.

We hope that you will continue enhancing trade and competition in international aviation and strongly consider Delta’s application. Thank you in advance for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

JOHN LEWIS  
Member of Congress

TOM GRAVES  
Member of Congress