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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COMMITTEE ON
NATURAL RESOURCES
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS
COMMITTEE ON
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE

November 10, 2013

Susan T. Mitchell, Assistant Commissioner
Office of Field Operations
United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 2.4A
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Assist. Commissioner Mitchell,

I write in support of Air North's application for landing rights at Fairbanks International Airport for two flights in the summer of 2014. I understand Air North's initial application was denied by the Alaska CBP office, who instead suggested the two flights land at Anchorage International Airport where CBP staffing levels are higher. I urge CBP to reconsider this position when considering Air North's appeal.

As you know, tourism is a significant source of revenue for my state in the summer months. Holland America, who until recently transported tourists from Dawson City, Canada into Alaska via motor coach, now wishes to fly guests into Fairbanks via Air North. This would be a boon for the city of Fairbanks, with an estimated 19,000 additional passengers spending the day visiting the city and contributing to the local economy, rather than spending all day on a bus. However, this cannot occur if CBP denies Air North's application and insists that the passengers be rerouted through Anchorage International Airport. Fairbanks and Anchorage are 360 miles apart by road, 60 minutes by air, and 12 hours by rail.

It is my understanding that Anchorage International Airport has experienced a 41% decrease in international passengers between 2012 and 2013. In light of this data and our shared goal to provide travelers the maximum amount of time visiting Alaska, I ask that CBP reexamine the existing allocation of CBP officers in the state and find a way to permit these two Air North flights to land at Fairbanks International Airport.

Do not hesitate to call my office if we can be of assistance and we would appreciate a response as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Young".

Don Young
Congressman for All Alaska