

OPPOSE Cuellar Amendment to H.R. 4

Sending Office: Honorable Barbara Comstock
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Your community could lose service to Reagan National Airport

Dear Colleague:

I strongly urge you to **OPPOSE Cuellar #147 amendment** to H.R. 4, the FAA Reauthorization Act. The Cuellar Amendment is designed to direct nonstop flights from Reagan National Airport (DCA) to San Antonio, at great cost to communities with current service to DCA, as well as Dulles International Airport and the populations it serves. To be clear, this issue affects more than just a handful of Members and districts in the local metropolitan Washington D.C. area. **In fact, a majority of members could potentially lose under this misguided proposal.**

Changes to the High-Density (“Slot”) or Perimeter Rules governing flight operations at Reagan National Airport (DCA) will lead to secondary and tertiary effects on flight operations at airports around the nation. These rules were designed to both manage congestion at DCA and also balance traffic between the two airports in a single airport system. In its attempt to attract a nonstop DCA-to-San Antonio flight, this amendment would require an air carrier to initially convert an existing route from a large hub airport within DCA's 1,250 mile perimeter to serve San Antonio. However, an airline could simply “backfill” that route by ending service to a medium or small hub airport currently served at DCA and then restarting service at the large hub airport. **The “loser” in this situation could be nearly any state, district, or Member inside the perimeter. A map of at-risk airports is below.**

There are elected officials who are using the military as a shield to change the law for their own personal convenience. Military patients are moved between the D.C.-area and the San Antonio-area using military flights.

- **BOTTOM LINE ON CUELLAR #147:** If you are *outside* the perimeter, odds are you gain nothing by voting in favor; and if you are *inside* the perimeter, you risk losing a flight you and your constituents take when flying into and out of the Washington Metropolitan Region. It is likely that only large cities would benefit from this amendment at the expense of many medium- and small-sized communities.

No Member of Congress appreciates another representative meddling with the assets in their state or

any reason, but especially their personal convenience. I ask that you review the additional material enclosed with this Dear Colleague and I respectfully urge you to **OPPOSE** Cuellar #147. Thank you for your consideration. Should your staff have any questions, they may contact Ryan McManus at 5-5136

If Your Destination is in Red You are at Risk!



*Includes seasonal destinations not operating in September & single-plane destinations
Source: Innovata Airline Schedules (Calendar Year 2017), via Dilo MI Online Portal as of July 3, 2017.

Related Legislative Issues

Selected legislative information: Transportation