

Senator Basham offered the following resolution:

Senate Resolution No. 120.

A resolution to encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the application of Delta Air Lines for a new route from Detroit Metropolitan Airport to Haneda Airport in Japan.

Whereas, The new Open Skies bilateral aviation agreement with Japan allows for limited U.S. airline service into Haneda Airport, also known as Tokyo International Airport and the largest in Japan, for the first time since 1978. Delta Air Lines has applied for the rights to operate daily service into Haneda from Detroit, Seattle, Los Angeles, and Honolulu. Delta's Detroit hub is one of the largest and most effective U.S. airline hubs for service to Asia and provides convenient connecting service from more than 100 American cities; and

Whereas, Over 500 Japanese companies are located in Michigan, and Michigan exports over \$1.5 billion a year to Japan. The local market and connecting service would strongly support air service to Haneda. New air service to Haneda would create direct and immediate economic benefits for metropolitan Detroit and the state of Michigan. A new transpacific air route can generate up to \$150 million in annual economic activity, and Delta estimates that 300 jobs are created to support each new long-haul transpacific route; and

Whereas, With four new Haneda air routes to award, the U.S. Department of Transportation should select the carrier that will maximize the consumer and economic benefits associated with the new bilateral aviation agreement. The department has the opportunity to ensure that Michigan remains an important gateway to Asia and to boost the Michigan economy by approving this timely application. Delta Air Lines is strongly positioned to compete with Japanese carriers and their U.S. partners in large local markets that will receive new Haneda service; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to approve the application of Delta Air Lines for a new route from Detroit Metropolitan Airport to Haneda Airport in Japan; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation.