

MARTHA MCSALLY  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
BORDER AND MARITIME SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1029 LONGWORTH BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-2542

4400 E BROADWAY BOULEVARD  
SUITE 510  
TUCSON, AZ 85711  
(520) 881-3588

77 CALLE PORTAL  
SUITE B160  
SIERRA VISTA, AZ 85635  
(520) 459-3115

McSALLY.HOUSE.GOV

May 18, 2016

Ms. Brooke Chapman, Associate Director  
Small Community Air Service Development Program Office of Aviation Analysis  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE W86-307  
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Small Community Air Service Development Program Grant Application Docket DOT-OST-2016-0037-0034 Tucson International Airport, Tucson, Arizona

Dear Ms. Chapman,

I am writing to offer my strong support for Tucson Airport Authority's application for the Small Community Air Service Development Program Grant to help our community address its need for a direct air link to New York. The need is so important to our community that the Tucson Metro Chamber of Commerce established an Air Service Task Force that has raised \$2.1 million from business and community leaders. The \$2.1 million raised and the grant funds they are applying for would meet the \$3 million minimum revenue guarantee for an airline to launch this service.

A study done last year for the airport authority by Sixel Consulting Group found that an average of 226 passengers per day travel each way between the Tucson and New York areas, making the Tucson market the largest in the U.S. without a non-stop flight to New York. That same study found that an average of 97 of those passengers, or 43 percent, currently must use the Phoenix airport, about 120 miles away.

Not only would this new service provide a direct link to the New York area and the northeast U.S., but it would open up new opportunities for connections to destinations across the Atlantic, which are important to the biotech and pharmaceutical as well as tourism industries that are so vital to the economy in Tucson and southern Arizona.

Please consider the merits of Tucson Airport Authority's grant application.

In Service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha McSally".

MARTHA MCSALLY  
Member of Congress