

October 22, 2018

Lic. Andrés Manuel López Obrador
President-Elect
United Mexican States

Dear President-Elect López Obrador:

Congratulations on your election. I am writing to you on behalf of Airlines for America¹ (A4A), the industry trade organization representing the leading U.S. airlines, in support of the New Mexico International Airport (NAIM) construction project.

In 2017, 26 U.S. and Mexican airlines transported 7.9 million passengers and 189,000 tons of high-value cargo between Mexico City's Benito Juárez International Airport and the United States, building business and generating jobs for hundreds of thousands of Mexican and American workers.

While these figures are impressive, the reality is that any future growth from air services at Mexico City's Benito Juárez International Airport is severely constrained. The airport is an aging piece of infrastructure that is simply no longer suitable for a city of the size and importance of Mexico City.

Construction of the NAIM is vital to Mexico's aviation development, contributing to future economic growth and generating new jobs and opportunities in the country. Without the new airport, Mexico could lose more than 20 million potential new passengers per year by 2035, according to some studies.

The new airport will drive significant economic value for Mexico and other countries around the world. The construction and completion of NAIM is critical to ensure the continued growth of tourism, trade and revenue that both of our countries enjoy due to robust aviation demand. The airport will continue to boost the Mexican economy and benefit taxpayers through heightened air travel demand, while offering an increase in operational safety through straight and obstacle-free landing and take-off trajectories.

We join other aviation industry groups – including the International Air Transport Association (IATA), Camara Nacional de Aerotransportes (CANAERO), Latin American and Caribbean Air Transport Association (ALTA), Air Canada and Air France – in voicing our support for the continuation of this project to meet the needs of the growing traveling and shipping public.

¹ A4A members are Alaska Airlines, Inc.; American Airlines Group, Inc.; Atlas Air, Inc.; Federal Express Corporation.; Hawaiian Airlines; JetBlue Airways Corp.; Southwest Airlines Co.; United Continental Holdings, Inc.; and United Parcel Service Co. Air Canada is an associate member.

I look forward to an open dialogue on this matter and remain available to serve as a resource as you begin your term as president.

Sincerely,



Nicholas E. Calio