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PRESS RELEASE

**Announcement By Secretary Peters Regarding
New York Congestion and Delays**

The Air Carrier Association of America (“ACAA”) applauds the actions taken by Secretary Mary Peters to improve flight operations in New York airspace, at New York area airports, and throughout the Northeast United States during the upcoming holiday season and into the New Year. The airspace changes and appointment of an airport czar are important first steps.

It is important that the Administration continue to consider all airspace modifications that accommodate the growing demand for air travel. At the same time, the Secretary should ensure that any steps taken to address delays and congestion allow all carriers to expand at airports impacted by these steps. Secretary Peters endorsed this approach at the first JFK Airline Scheduling meeting when she stated:

“I am not in favor of a system that limits competition, nor do I want to reduce the ability of new entrants to fly into New York.”

Freezing current operations primarily benefits incumbent carriers. Unless some provisions are established to allow entry and growth, competition and low fares may be but a memory.

ACAA Executive Director Ed Faberman stated: “We applaud Secretary Peters’ actions to take important steps to address operations in the New York area; however, the dream of deregulation must not be abandoned. Travelers want increased competition. We ask the Secretary to work with us to make sure that happens.”