

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4705

September 20, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

I am writing in support of Spokane International Airport's (GEG) application to the Federal Aviation Administration's Airport Terminal Program grant program. Spokane International Airport is seeking \$15 million for the final phase of its Concourse C Expansion Project.

Spokane International Airport is the second-largest airport in Washington state and the third-largest Small Hub Airport nationally. GEG is regionally significant, as it is the closest international airport for most of eastern Washington—as well as northern Idaho and western Montana. Spokane International Airport is on the move, too: last year it welcomed a record 4.13 million travelers and is still growing rapidly. The airport had a 24% increase in enplanements over the last two years and a 38% increase in passengers since 2013. Airports are critical to local economies, which Congress recognized when it provided funding for air travel infrastructure nationwide as part of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law—including investing \$5 billion in the Airport Terminal Program.

If successful, Spokane International Airport will use Airport Terminal Program funding to complete the final phase of its 70,000-square-foot Concourse C Expansion Project. The final phase includes considerable Americans with Disabilities Act improvements, such as hearing-impaired technology, behavioral health services, and the replacement of all ground boarding at GEG with the addition of three new and three renovated boarding bridges. Additionally, the final section of Concourse C will achieve LEED certification and meet stringent state energy code requirements. The project will add the necessary infrastructure for future solar panel connection and the replacement of aging electrical infrastructure to help GEG and Washington state meet their climate goals. The project will create an estimated 1,605 jobs, \$72.4 million in workforce payroll, and a total economic impact of \$293 million for Spokane and eastern Washington.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of the Spokane International Airport's application to the Airport Terminal Program grant program.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell

United States Senator