

LAS VEGAS



McCARRAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Department of Aviation

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The Honorable Dean Heller
U.S. Senate
324 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Heller,

On behalf of the Clark County Department of Aviation, which operates Las Vegas McCarran International Airport, I am writing in support of the jobs originated through launching Travel Act of 2015 (JOLT Act of 2015). The JOLT Act of 2015 facilitates secure, international travel between partnering countries and improves the visa process for travelers. More than 19 million travelers, 60 percent of all overseas visitors to the United States, arrived last year through the Visa Waiver Program.

International travel and tourism continues to play a vital role in the economy of Southern Nevada. Over the past six years, Las Vegas McCarran International Airport has experienced 60 percent growth in its international air service compared to 2.75 percent growth by domestic carriers. The JOLT Act of 2015 will support our ability to continue to increase international travel to Las Vegas by strengthening and reforming the Visa Waiver Program (VWP). Renaming the VWP as the Secure Travel Partnership Program more aptly reflects its goal to allow international visitors from partnering countries to travel to the United States for business or tourism purposes without having to go through a complicated visa process. The legislative enhancements to the program criteria increase the potential for more countries, like Brazil, to join the program in the future. The expansion of the VWP to date has benefited our community and this program will continue to be important, as we strive to meet passenger demand to travel to Las Vegas from growing markets in South America and Asia. I also applaud the legislative efforts to reduce visa processing delays, coordinating trusted traveler applications, enhancing travel to the United States from Canada, and testing the use of secure videoconference technology for visa interviews.

The reforms in the JOLT Act of 2015 are forward thinking and will improve international travel to our region and to the United States. I appreciate your leadership and support of this legislation.

Rosemary A. Vassiliadis
Director of Aviation
McCarran International Airport
Clark County Department of Aviation



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