



September 28, 2015

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

Dear Senator Heller:

On behalf of the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, I want to express our full support of the Jobs Originating Through Launching Travel Act of 2015 (JOLT Act). Thank you for your leadership in introducing such an important piece of legislation for the travel and tourism industry.

Last year, Las Vegas welcomed 7.8 million international visitors, representing 19 percent of all travelers to the destination. International travelers to Southern Nevada tend to stay longer and spend more, on average, spending 77 percent more than domestic travelers. International visitors directly supported 68,500 jobs and generated \$2.7 billion in salaries and wages.

Our goal is to increase international visitation to 30 percent over the next 7 years and passage of the JOLT Act will help make that happen. Provisions in the JOLT Act of 2015 would:

- Expand the Visa Waiver Program, making it easier for travelers from countries like Brazil and Poland to visit Las Vegas; expand the Global Entry
- Expand the Global Entry program that expedites entry for preapproved, low-risk international travelers
- Mandate expedited visa processing and reduced visa wait times for travelers who wish to visit the U.S.
- Facilitate the use of secure videoconferencing to conduct visa interviews by authorizing a pilot program to test feasibility, which would provide increased access to a U.S. visa for potential travelers

These key tenets of the JOLT Act are important to achieving the goals of 100 million visitors to the U.S. and increasing Las Vegas' international visitation.

We appreciate your leadership and support of this legislation, and we look forward to continuing to work with you on travel and tourism issues in the future. If I can provide any more information, please call my office at 702-892-2800.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rossi Ralenkotter".

Rossi Ralenkotter