

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5301

March 5th, 2025

The Honorable Sean Duffy
Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Duffy,

We are writing to request a meeting with you to discuss the many transportation-related issues that Guam is currently facing. Since sending you a letter in January, we have introduced H.R. 1536, the Pacific Flight Alternatives Act. This bill would allow air cabotage for Philippine, South Korean, and Japanese air carriers in Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands (NMI), for which we respectfully ask for your support. For too long, people living in Guam, NMI, and the Department of Defense have been confined to discriminatory policies and punitive travel expenses.

Unfortunately, this is our only option. Beyond Guam and NMI, the nearest U.S. airport is approximately four thousand miles away in Hawaii. This inaccessibility, coupled with aging infrastructure and rising prices, has made flying in and out of our territories significantly more difficult. While we have supported our airports in efforts like the Airport Improvement Program and other funding programs, your support will be essential to creating a long-term strategy for transportation fairness with H.R. 1536.

Existing outside the U.S. customs zone, the current transportation infrastructure and policies impose striking challenges for the residents of Guam and NMI. These challenges impact residents' personal and professional lives by making travel to and from the continental United States time-consuming and expensive, with basic economy tickets costing over \$3,000. By permitting carriers from Japan, the Philippines, or South Korea to travel to our territories and another U.S. point, you can yield greater economic development and increase the connectivity of the territory with the rest of the country.

H.R. 1536 will not only promote fair travel prices and mitigate monopolistic practices but also confront the unique challenge of flying with pets. Unlike other states and territories, United Airlines does not allow passengers to fly to Guam and NMI with their pets. To transport pets, residents must utilize specialized flights that also cost thousands of dollars. However, despite this restriction, Department of Defense and State personnel are permitted to bring their pets to Guam

and NMI. By allowing specified foreign carriers to operate between U.S. destinations, we can facilitate efficient and affordable pet transportation.

We urge you to support H.R. 1536 and advocate for its implementation. Supporting this bill is vital to promoting efficient and economical airfare policies and improving the connectivity of an American territory that suffers from its distance to the continental United States. Otherwise, We would humbly ask you to waive restrictions from certain air carriers in accordance with the authorities granted to you in [49 U.S.C. § 41703](#).

Mr. Secretary, the people of Guam and the Northern Mariana Islands deserve better quality and cost to visit family, friends, and the mainland United States. We would like to respectfully request a meeting with you and your team to discuss these options further. If you are interested, please reach out to Maria Bello at Maria.bello@mail.house.gov and Devyn Shea at Devyn.shea@mail.house.gov and on our teams to schedule a time.

Sincerely,



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress



Kimberly King-Hinds
Member of Congress