



Punta Gorda Airport (PGD)

Preclearance Landing Rights Request

Ref. 19 CFR § 122.14

Background Information

- **Mid 2021** – Began air service discussions with a carrier based in Toronto Pearson International (YYZ) that expressed interest in serving PGD
- **June 1, 2022** – Request letter sent to Mr. Kerry D. Carter – Port Director CBP, Ft Myers
- **July 1, 2022** – Phone conversation with Mr. Carter indicating that the request would most likely be denied; official response forthcoming
- **October 2022** – Received official letter from Mr. Carter denying PGD’s request for landing rights approval

Why PGD?

- **Low-cost Model** - PGD was named one of the most affordable airports for domestic flights with an average domestic fare of \$142.48. PGD served Allegiant and Sun Country in 2021-22 to 50+ nonstop destinations.
- **Between Two Metro Areas** – Ft. Myers and Sarasota population areas are both less than an hour drive time.
- **Strong Market** - In 2017 more than half of Florida's Canadian visitors were residents of Ontario (56%).

Economic Impact

- **Visit Florida’s 2017 Tourism Survey** - shows the average domestic visitor to Florida stayed 4.2 nights and spent \$117 per night while in Florida for a total of \$491. Canadian visitors stayed 21.2 nights and spent \$42 per night while in Florida for a total of \$891.
- **Miami Example** - Canadian tourists spend approximately \$1,490 per person on lodging, meals, local transportation, entertainment, and shopping.
- **Airports Council International-North America Report** - “Economic Value of U.S. Preclearance: Benefit for U.S. Communities” states that, Precleared flights from Canada to Miami provides easy access to Canada for businesses and encourages industrial development. Preclearance also contributes to the overall sense of Miami’s attractiveness and competitiveness. PGD could provide that same value to Southwest Florida while supporting growth and tourism.

Similarity to NY LaGuardia (LGA) Case Study

- LGA is in close proximity to two CBP staffed airports however, there are no Federal Inspection Services (FIS) facilities for processing international flights at LGA. Preclearance by CBP in Canada has permitted passengers to arrive at LGA without the need for FIS facilities and CBP staffing. Similar to LGA, PGD is located in close proximity to two CBP staffed airports.