



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

11000 Terminal Access  
Rd., #8636  
Fort Myers, FL 33913

Gary E. Duncan, CM  
Chief Operating Officer, Punta Gorda Airport  
Charlotte County Airport Authority

Dear Mr. Duncan,

Thank you for your proposal dated June 1, 2022, to request landing rights approval for Canada Jetlines at Punta Gorda Airport (PGD). After careful consideration and review, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP or Agency) hereby denies your request for the reasons set forth below.

Pursuant to 19 C.F.R. § 112.14, CBP may deny landing rights for several reasons, including but not limited to situations where appropriate and/or sufficient Federal Government personnel are not available, and proper inspectional facilities or equipment are not available at, or maintained by, the requested airport.

Punta Gorda Airport is not manned by CBP Officers to service pre-cleared commercial flights from Canada. The closest CBP Port of Entry to PGD is Southwest Florida International Airport (Port of Fort Myers), but CBP staffing there is limited and must often be supplemented by the Area Port of Tampa passenger operation personnel who are (at minimum) two (2) and half hours away depending on traffic conditions and other factors. As such, CBP Officers responding to PGD is not feasible with the resources currently in place.

Moreover, PGD does not have a Federal Inspection Services (FIS) area or a Customs and Border Protection General Aviation Facility (GAF). It has no CBP infrastructure or technology to include CBP informational systems and baggage X-ray capabilities. Therefore, the PGD facility is not in conformance with CBP's Airport Technical Design Standards for the Agency to perform its operations and is not equipped for processing international passengers, crew, and luggage.

In sum, the proximity of the PGD facility to CBP personnel and the lack of proper inspectional facilities and equipment represents too many logistical challenges. Accordingly, CBP denies your request for landing rights at PGD at this time. Appeals to this decision may be made, in writing to the Assistant Commissioner, Office of Field Operations at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Room 5.5C, Washington, DC 20229. A copy of the original request and this letter should accompany the appeal.

If you have any questions pertaining to landing rights, please contact Tampa Assistant Area Port Director, Passenger Operations, Alberto Sabat, at (813) 456-8629.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Radames A. Torres', enclosed within a blue oval. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible.

Radames A. Torres  
Area Port Director  
Office of Field Operations  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection