

Mr. Chris Magnus, Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Month #, 2023

Dear Mr. Mangus

I (or ON BEHALF OF COMPANY) am writing in support of the Charlotte County Airport Authority's appeal to have landing rights approved for Punta Gorda Airport (PGD). Landing Rights approval will allow pre-cleared passengers and cargo inbound from Toronto, Canada to arrive at PGD without the need for an expensive Federal Inspection Facility (FIS). PGD staff are in discussions with Canada Jetlines based out of Toronto International Airport (YYZ) in Ontario, Canada. YYZ will be Canada Jetlines' airport of origin, a U.S. CBP-approved Preclearance airport.

Landing rights approval for PGD will have a significant economic benefit to our small, but growing, community. According to a recent report from Airports Council International, Canadian tourists spend approximately \$1,490 per person on lodging, meals, local transportation, entertainment and shopping (Miami case study).

Two flights per week, served by A-320 type aircraft with an average load factor of 80% for a 6-month period, will provide an estimated passenger spend of \$1,000, with the total spending in the area surpassing \$6.7 million. Visitor spending will infuse money into the economy, benefiting hospitality workers directly, while also contributing to our 1% Local Option Sales Tax to fund important infrastructure projects.

In Charlotte County, approximately 29,964 households fall into the category of ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed), while another 10% of Charlotte County households live at Federal Poverty Level, meaning that close to half (40%) are struggling to meet basic needs.

We request that U.S. Customs and Border Protection grant PGD landing rights as soon as possible to encourage investment in our community, increase the speed of recovery from Hurricane Ian, and to spur new job creation. Since PGD is located between two international airports (RSW & SRQ) and a short driving distance from either airport, PGD should not be required to have a large FIS staffed facility with dedicated CBP Officers. Landing rights for PGD will enable more connectivity throughout southwest Florida, very similar to how LaGuardia was approved for landing rights because it is near Newark and JFK.

**I/WE ask that you to take action now to put the necessary resources in place to approve landing rights for PGD, so that our community can prepare for Canada Jetlines to begin service in Fall 2024.**

Sincerely,

Your Name  
Title, Organization

cc: Senator Rick Scott, Senator Marco Rubio, Congressman Greg Steube