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April 9, 2018

Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez Fletcher
California State Assembly
Capitol Office, Room 2114
PO Box 942849
Sacramento, CA 94249-0080

Dear Assemblywoman Gonzalez Fletcher:

I am writing to you on behalf of Southwest Airlines, the largest domestic air carrier in San Diego, in California, and nationwide, to urge you to reconsider AB 3119, legislation offered to transfer control of the San Diego International Airport (SAN) to the Port of San Diego. As a long-time tenant and operator at the Airport, we have the unique perspective of operating at SAN under the Airport Authority and under Port control, and can give first-hand testimony of the significant improvements in operations, capital planning, and execution delivered when the Regional Airport Authority was formed to manage this essential asset for the community. We consider reverting to management structures of the past to be a large step backwards.

This bill also threatens to derail one of the region's most important projects – the replacement of the airport's 50-year-old Terminal 1. The San Diego County Regional Airport Authority has made significant progress in developing this project and is in a position to issue design and construction contracts by the end of the year. A change in leadership at the airport will take significant time to accomplish, and will surely cause a delay in the project – something that would not only be disruptive to airlines like Southwest, but most importantly would hurt San Diego residents and visitors who deserve a world-class terminal with more gates, security lanes, restaurants, and shops. The uncertainty created by simply having this debate can have the effect of making access to capital markets more difficult and more expensive, conditions that will raise costs at the airport and for the citizens using it. The Airport Authority has a proven track record of delivering on-time and on-budget projects, which unfortunately was not always the case when the airport was managed by the Port prior to the creation of the Airport Authority.

Southwest Airlines presently serves 100 destinations both domestically and internationally, and we have had the opportunity to deal with almost every form of airport governance used in aviation today. Please know that we consider San Diego's present Authority governance far superior to all other forms in terms of operational

capability, responsiveness, capital delivery, and Customer Service, and we sincerely hope that ways can be found to support it.

I appreciate your willingness to consider Southwest Airlines' point of view on this very important issue and urge you to reconsider this legislation.

Sincerely,



Bob Montgomery
Vice President-Airport Affairs

BM/ts

Copy to: Assembly Local Government Committee
Jim MacDonald, Consultant, Assembly Local Government Committee
William Weber, Consultant, Assembly Republican Caucus