

February 14, 2023

The Honorable Merrick Garland  
Attorney General  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Attorney General Garland and Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce and our 1,300 members, I write to express support for JetBlue's acquisition of Spirit Airlines. The proposed acquisition would bolster healthy competition among airline providers by creating a national low fare challenger to the four largest carriers operating in the nation.

Since its first flight in 2000, JetBlue has benefited consumers across the industry as other airlines have lowered their fares and improved their service to compete for customers. A larger JetBlue will introduce a 5th national competitor providing greater access to JetBlue's travel experience and offering more route choices for travelers. JetBlue has a strong record of stimulating travel through lower fares via what MIT and the US Department of Justice have called the JetBlue Effect. When JetBlue enters new routes, airlines consistently respond by reducing their fares. Consumers therefore have greater access to these lower fares on multiple carriers, and the number of travelers increases on the route as fares go down – with JetBlue entry decreasing nonstop fares by on average 16 percent.

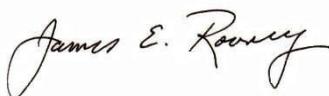
After acquiring Spirit, JetBlue will be less than half the size of each of the "Big Four" airlines – and far from the size these carriers created by mergers approved by the Department of Justice over the past 20 years. The JetBlue-Spirit merger will benefit consumers by providing more routes and lower fares. In addition to providing an immediate benefit in JetBlue's six existing Focus Cities, it also facilitates access for JetBlue to grow and deliver as a highly competitive national low-fare challenger at airline hubs across the country.

JetBlue has also preemptively offered to divest Spirit's current holdings in Boston and New York as well as five gates (and related ground facilities) at Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport. These divestitures – which are similar to remedies the Department of Justice accepted in far more concentrated airline deals – will create opportunities for smaller airlines to grow at key constrained airports.

Finally, JetBlue has deep roots in communities throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Anchored by the airline's Focus City at Boston Logan Airport, JetBlue also serves Worcester Regional Airport as well as Hyannis, Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard on a seasonal basis. JetBlue's commitment to extends well beyond its flights. The airline partners with community organizations across the Commonwealth and is a sponsor of the Boston Red Sox, the Boston Celtics, the Boston Bruins, the Boston Marathon, TD Garden and the New England Patriots.

I urge your prompt review and approval of this acquisition to create a national low-fare airline challenger that benefits both consumers and communities.

Sincerely,



Jim Rooney  
President and CEO