

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2018

The Honorable Kevin K. McAleenan
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Department of Homeland Security
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20229

RE: Grand Junction Regional Airport – User Fee Facility Designation

Dear Commissioner McAleenan:

We write to express our support for the Grand Junction Regional Airport's (GJT) application for designation as a User Fee Airport (UFA) under U.S. Customs supervision. GJT is an essential asset in the economic development efforts of the Grand Junction region and Western Colorado. Allowing direct international flights enhances the airport's role in the state tourism industry and creates a new, direct link to the global air transportation system for Colorado employers.

A UFA designation serves as a valuable tool to diversify economic opportunities and attract multinational business and tourism to the region. Currently, GJT is the third largest airport in the state, in terms of ticketed passengers. It hosts daily scheduled flights by United, American, Delta, and other airlines. Major freight carriers, such as FedEx and UPS, also use GJT for high-speed transport services. Incorporating international travel would serve the growing region with air services for business and tourism, while allowing carriers to move international cargo through the airport. The airport also has excellent access to interstate and rail transportation.

A U.S. Customs presence would support economic growth not only on the western slope, but in our state as a whole. It enjoys the strong support of community and business leaders in the Grand Junction area. Additionally, the full complement of international air, truck, and rail infrastructure supports the community's goal to establish a Foreign-Trade Zone in the region on behalf of international businesses that have expressed interest in the program. Both public and private partners are working closely together to provide the capital and ongoing financial support necessary for this endeavor.

We urge you to give GJT's application every appropriate consideration consistent with all applicable laws and regulations. Thank you for your attention, and please notify our offices about your decision.

Sincerely,



Michael F. Bennet
United States Senator

Cory Gardner
United States Senator

Scott Tipton
Member of Congress