

2017 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 117

BY REPRESENTATIVE HODGES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To urge and request the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport to continue expansion of its commercial air services by supporting direct, nonstop commercial air service from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Washington D.C.

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport serves as the primary commercial airport for the greater Baton Rouge region; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport desires to increase direct commercial flights to more destinations and airline hubs throughout the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport currently services the four major network airlines through the four hub cities of Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas, Houston, Texas, Charlotte, North Carolina, and Atlanta, Georgia; and

WHEREAS, currently the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport does not have commercial air service from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Washington D.C.; and

WHEREAS, both business-related visitors and tourists to the greater Baton Rouge region will increase with more direct commercial flight destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport serves a metropolitan statistical area of over 830,000 people and a total catchment area of approximately 1.6 billion people throughout south Louisiana and southwest Mississippi; and

WHEREAS, businesses who are operating or located in the greater Baton Rouge region will benefit from increased direct commercial air service; and

WHEREAS, it would be beneficial for governmental relations to connect Louisiana's capitol with our Nation's capitol with direct commercial air service; and

WHEREAS, the state of Louisiana will benefit both economically and culturally from increased direct commercial air service at Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport; and

WHEREAS, over 13.4 million total passengers departed Louisiana's airports in 2016, accounting for a two percent increase over 2015; and

WHEREAS, domestic and international visitors accounted for over \$16.8 billion in spending in 2016, generating \$1.04 billion in state tax revenues as a result of the travel and tourism industries; and

WHEREAS, direct commercial air service from Baton Rouge to Washington D.C. would promote economic development in the greater Baton Rouge region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby support the continued expansion of the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport and its commercial air services; and does hereby support direct, non-stop commercial air service from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, to Washington D.C.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport director Ralph Hennessy.

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE