



February 7, 2018

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: H.R. 3355/Report No. 115-239

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of the California Travel Association, I am writing to respectfully request your support for the inclusion of language contained in the House Homeland Security Appropriations bill (H.R. 3355/Report No. 115-239) regarding Port of Entry status for certain airports in a House-Senate FY18 omnibus appropriations conference agreement.

Specifically, the applicable language directs that:

“SEC. 534. – Not later than 90 days from the date of this Act, the Commissioner of United States Customs and Border Protection shall: (a) conduct a survey of international passenger traffic at the airports listed in Section 122.15(b) of Title 19, Code of Federal Regulations, and designate any airport as a port of entry if that airport: (1) has scheduled international service by one or more air carriers; and (2) received over 75,000 international passenger arrivals during the most recent calendar year in which federal passenger data is available; (b) ensure a sufficient number of United States Customs and Border Protection officers are available at any airport designated as a port of entry under subsection (a) in order for landing rights requests to be granted in accordance with Section 122.14 of Title 19, Code of Federal Regulations.

For more than 35 years, CalTravel has protected and enhanced the interests of the California travel and tourism industry through advocacy, collaboration, and education. Travel and tourism is one of the most significant economic drivers in the state – responsible for hundreds of billions of dollars in economic activity, millions of jobs and billions in tax revenues. Orange County is one of the top travel and leisure destinations in the state and the nation; its continued economic strength relies on transportation partners,

like John Wayne Airport, who are able to support the demand from both domestic and international visitors.

CalTravel has long supported the designation of John Wayne Airport – the only commercial airport in Orange County – as a Port of Entry and we write today to ask for your support of the inclusion of this language in the House-Senate FY18 omnibus appropriations conference agreement.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,



Barbara Newton
President and CEO
California Travel Association

cc: The Honorable Kamala Harris, United States Senate
Members, Orange County Board of Supervisors
Ed Fuller, President and CEO, Orange County Visitors Association
Barry A. Rondinella, Director, John Wayne Airport