



Commonwealth of Virginia

General Assembly
RICHMOND

August 19, 2022

John Potter
President and Chief Executive Officer
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
1 Aviation Circle
Arlington, VA 22202
Via email to John.Potter@MWAA.com

Dear Mr. Potter and Members of the MWAA Board of Directors:

We are writing today to ask that the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (“MWAA”) update its minimum wage policy to ensure adequate staffing levels, fairly compensate frontline workers, and minimize the spread of COVID-19. We support proposals to raise the MWAA minimum wage, add paid sick leave, and create health benefit standards for airport workers.

As passengers return to our airports for a busy summer travel season, MWAA’s minimum wage is currently just \$14.25 per hour, far below a living wage in our expensive region. Though wages are scheduled to rise to \$15 per hour next year, this will still be well below a living wage in the DC area and there are no future increases scheduled.

We are concerned this compensation level is too low to attract and retain adequate staff, especially given the grueling work that wheelchair assistants, cabin cleaners, and baggage handlers do every day. We support significantly raising the airport minimum wage to ensure a stable, long-term workforce at Dulles and National. We are also concerned that many airport workers lack basic protections in case of illness, despite working on the front lines of the pandemic.

As you know, when adopting the Airport Workers Wage Policy in 2017 and updating it in 2019, the MWAA Board declined to mandate paid sick leave for contracted airport service workers. This choice means that many workers at DCA and IAD lack paid sick leave.

MWAA must act now to protect travelers and to help these vulnerable workers. This is a public health issue. Without paid leave requirements, airport workers may face insurmountable economic pressure to come to work when they pose a risk to themselves and others. A paid sick leave requirement would protect workers, workers’ families, and passengers from COVID-19.

Many workers at Dulles and National also lack health insurance. Research by SEIU Local 32BJ found that one contractor operating at DCA and IAD provided health insurance benefits to just 17 out of 313 bargaining unit employees (5%). Health

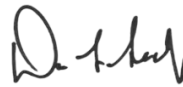
insurance plans often come with premiums and deductibles that workers cannot afford, making them unlikely to opt into employer plans. An airport-wide requirement for employers to provide quality health insurance plans – similar to policies adopted at other airports across the country – is desperately needed.

We ask that you take swift action to address these issues by raising the MWAA minimum wage and passing standards to ensure that all workers at Dulles and National can count on paid sick leave and quality, affordable health insurance plans.

Kind regards,
Members of the Virginia General Assembly



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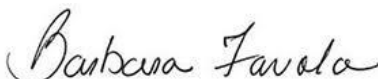
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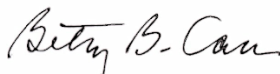
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