



U.S. Department of
Transportation

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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
ELIZABETH HANFORD DOLE
ON THE TRANSFER OF WASHINGTON AIRPORTS TO A REGIONAL AUTHORITY
September 11, 1985

The Senate Commerce Committee has taken an important step today to transfer the Washington airports to a regional authority. This will bring real benefits to Washington area residents, the traveling public and to the airlines and private pilots who use the airports.

A regional authority can respond to local needs and can act quickly to make the needed improvements at both airports through the same sources of financing currently used by other airports in the United States.

I am pleased that for the first time in the history of National and Dulles airports, we have achieved a consensus of local governments, the Administration, the airport users and many members of Congress in support of regional control of these two airports. This is particularly noteworthy in light of numerous, but up to now unsuccessful efforts, beginning with the Hoover Commission in 1949, to place control of the airports where it belongs, at the local level.

It is critical that the authority be given all of the responsibilities associated with controlling these airports.

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