

BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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In the matter of :  
 :  
 ALL U.S. AIR CARRIERS :  
 : Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021  
 Waiver of dormancy and startup :  
 conditions on limited-entry route authority :  
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NOTICE OF  
UNITED AIRLINES, INC.

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July 17, 2025

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United<sup>1</sup> hereby notifies the Department that, pursuant to the seasonal flexibility authority the Department granted in its Notice of Action Taken dated December 20, 2024,<sup>2</sup> it will suspend its Houston (IAH)-Havana (HAV) service effective September 2, 2025, with its last flight scheduled for September 1, 2025. United intends that the suspension will remain in effect for the remainder of the Summer 2025 and the entire Winter 2025/2026 traffic seasons, with service resuming no later than the start of the Summer 2026 season.

United believes the Department’s grant of seasonal flexibility for these frequencies covers this notification. However, should the Department determine that the foregoing suspension exceeds the scope of the grant of seasonal flexibility, and only if required, United moves for waiver of the start-up/dormancy conditions that would otherwise apply to its seven weekly IAH-HAV frequencies, through the end of the Winter 2025/2026 season.

In support of this request, United respectfully submits as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> Common names are used for airlines.

<sup>2</sup> See DOT Notice of Action Taken, Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Dec. 20, 2024) (granting United seasonal-flexibility authority for its Houston-Havana frequencies).

1. In a Final Order issued by the Department on April 20, 2018, United was allocated six weekly frequencies for its proposed Houston-Havana service on Sundays through Fridays in addition to its once-weekly Houston-Havana service previously granted to United on August 31, 2016. See DOT Order 2016-8-38 (Aug. 31, 2016) and DOT Order 2018-4-17 (Apr. 20, 2018), Docket DOT-OST-2016-0021.

2. On December 6, 2024, United filed a motion requesting seasonal flexibility for all seven frequencies so it could adjust capacity in response to demand fluctuations, which the Department granted in its Notice of Action Taken dated December 20, 2024.<sup>3</sup>

3. United's seasonal-flexibility motion explained that demand on the IAH–HAV route is highly seasonal, with pronounced shoulder-season troughs that do not support daily service and its plan includes frequency reductions during shoulder seasons to address reduced demand.<sup>4</sup> Passenger demand in the Houston–Havana market remains uneven, with pronounced shoulder-season troughs.<sup>5</sup> As such, granting this waiver will preserve United's ability to restore competitive, nonstop Houston-Havana service once market conditions warrant, in line with the Department's public-interest mandate.

4. In the event the Department deems the grant of seasonal flexibility inadequate to cover a suspension that extends through the Winter 2025/2026 season, and only if required, United hereby requests that the Department waive the start-up/dormancy conditions on these frequencies through the Winter 2025/2026 traffic season. The Department has previously granted temporary waivers covering Cuba frequencies, recognizing the challenges of maintaining U.S.-Cuba service

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<sup>3</sup> *Id.*


<sup>4</sup> See Motion of United Airlines, Inc. for Seasonal Flexibility ¶ 2, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Dec. 6, 2024) (describing planned reductions during shoulder seasons) (“United’s Seasonal Flexibility Motion”).

<sup>5</sup> United’s Seasonal Flexibility Motion ¶ 2.

year-round. Indeed, since early 2025, the Department has approved multiple dormancy waivers for American, Delta, and JetBlue.<sup>6</sup> United has not objected to such requests by other airlines. Granting comparable relief to United through one additional traffic season maintains equal treatment.

WHEREFORE, United respectfully notifies the Department of its intention to use the Department's grant of seasonal flexibility to suspend its Houston-Havana frequencies through the Winter 2025/2026 season. In the alternative, United requests issuance of a dormancy waiver order extending through the Winter 2025/2026 season, together with such other relief as the Department deems appropriate and in the public interest.

Respectfully submitted,



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July 17, 2025

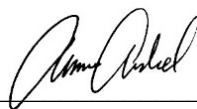
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<sup>6</sup> See DOT Notice of Action Taken, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (June 6, 2025) (American Airlines dormancy waiver); DOT Notice of Action Taken, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (March 5, 2025) (Delta Air Lines dormancy waiver); DOT Notice of Action Taken, DOT-OST-2016-0021 (Mar. 10, 2025) (JetBlue Airways dormancy waiver).

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have served the foregoing document on the following people by e-mail in accordance with the Department's Rules of Practice:

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July 17, 2025