

September 26, 2014

The Honorable Annise D. Parker
Mayor
City of Houston
P.O. Box 1562
Houston, TX 77251

Dear Mayor Parker:

We understand that next week the Houston City Council will consider approving a lease (Agenda Item 24) granting a new party fixed base operator status at William P. Hobby Airport (HOU). The National Air Transportation Association (NATA), an association representing fixed base operators (FBOs) across the country, opposes Agenda Item 24 in its current form and requests the Council adopt an amendment to create a level playing field among all FBOs at HOU. In addition, such an amendment would place HOU in full compliance with Federal Aviation Administration grant assurance requirements.

NATA represents a broad array of aviation service businesses essential to a vibrant general aviation sector. Our member companies provide fuel, on-demand air charter, aircraft rental, storage, flight training, aircraft maintenance, parts sales, line support, airline baggage handling, services as well as business aircraft and fractional ownership fleet management. NATA members range in size from large companies with international presence to smaller, single-location operators that depend exclusively on general aviation for their livelihood.

NATA appreciates that Council staff and officials from the Houston Airport System met with the companies currently operating FBOs at the airport. We further appreciate the fact that suggestions made by these FBOs are incorporated into the proposed lease. However, without additional language that accelerates the amount and tempo of investment made by the new entrant and clarifying that at least one new hanger is for the exclusive use of third party customers, the City will be creating an unequal level of competition among FBOs at the airport, a clear violation of FAA grant assurances.

We appreciate your consideration of our views. NATA supports competition throughout our industry and believes that when the playing field is truly level, competition, regardless of who is providing the services, will benefit everyone.

Sincerely,



Thomas L. Hendricks
President and CEO