



STATEMENT REGARDING EXPRESS JET AIRLINES CEASING OPERATIONS

July 9, 2008 -- NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA -- Sean C. Hunter, Director of Aviation, offers the following statement regarding today's press release from ExpressJet Airlines concerning their ceasing branded service on September 2, 2008.

ExpressJet and New Orleans had a strong and successful relationship. The level of service provided by ExpressJet and the excellent destinations were a win-win for Armstrong International, ExpressJet, the tourism community and most of all the customers.

We are saddened by the news that ExpressJet will cease service but want to reiterate that this is not only an issue in New Orleans but nationwide. Currently, Director of Aviation Sean Hunter and Chairman of the Board Dan Packer are both in Washington D.C. to meet with the executives of many of the nation's airports to discuss the effect of rising fuel costs and how those fuel costs are affecting airports and airlines nationwide. Further information on the meeting can be found on the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) web site at <http://events.aaae.org/sites/080714/>.

ExpressJet ceasing operations will result in the loss of 10 daily round trip flights and 500 daily seats. ExpressJet flies to five (5) destinations out of New Orleans; Raleigh-Durham, Austin, San Antonio, Kansas City and Jacksonville, Florida.

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