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## **Spirit Airlines Announces Non-Stop Service to Los Angeles from PHL Airport**

**PHILADELPHIA** – Spirit Airlines announced that it will begin operating daily non-stop service from Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) to Los Angeles (LAX), beginning April 14, 2016.

Spirit's announcement means that PHL will offer airline competition on its top 15 most popular domestic routes based on passenger traffic.

The Florida-based airline, which frequently touts its "Ultra-Low Fares," began service out of Philadelphia in 2013 with non-stop flights to Dallas-Fort Worth. Spirit has since added non-stop service to Atlanta, Chicago, Las Vegas, and Myrtle Beach, S.C.

"We are very pleased that Spirit will present passengers with more choices in scheduling and in travel options to the West Coast and specifically the second largest city in the country," Airport CEO Mark Gale said. "It is our mission to provide customers with convenient and affordable service to popular destinations."

Spirit's announcement of non-stop service from Philadelphia is expected to boost PHL's reputation as one of the most affordable airports in the country. PHL is sixth among 101 U.S. airports in the 2015 Airport Affordability Index of Cheapflights.com, a popular travel website. Gale attributed PHL's affordability to competition. As competition increases, ticket prices generally tend to fall, he said.

Affordable costs, convenience and connectivity are essential to PHL's success and continued growth as a vital transportation hub.

The British-based aviation data firm, OAG, last month ranked PHL as the 14th-most-connected airport in the world, and No. 11 in the United States.

PHL offers non-stop service to 93 domestic and 39 international destinations. The most popular domestic destinations include Atlanta, Orlando, Chicago, Boston and Dallas-Fort Worth. The most popular international destinations include Cancun, London, Punta Cana, Toronto and Frankfurt.

This year, Philadelphia International Airport celebrates the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its commercial air service. In 1940, the Airport served 40,000 passengers flying to a handful of cities. Today, more than 30 million passengers travel annually to 131 destinations around the world.

*Philadelphia International Airport is owned and operated by the City of Philadelphia. The Airport is a self-sustaining entity that operates without the use of local tax dollars. It is one of the largest economic engines in Pennsylvania, generating an estimated \$14.4 billion in spending to the regional economy and accounting for more than 141,000 jobs.*