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| March 23, 2017 | 202-224-6244 |

**ICYMI: Heller Discusses Ways to Promote Nevada Tourism** **Washington, D.C.** – During today’s Senate Commerce Subcommittee on Aviation Operations, Safety, and Security hearing, U.S. Senator Dean Heller (R-NV) spoke with Rhonda Hamm-Niebruegge, Executive Director of St. Louis Lambert International Airport, and Bob Montgomery, Vice President of Airport Affairs for Southwest Airlines — the highest traffic airline at McCarran Airport. Heller asked how Congress can better focus on infrastructure in order to promote tourism, a major driver of Nevada’s economy. The witnesses responded by discussing the need to reduce regulatory barriers to approving airport construction and mentioned the important role airports play in serving as the hub for public transit. Click [HERE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oNKAvcz0e5k) or below to watch.**Background:** As Congress prepares for a possible infrastructure bill, Senator Heller is looking to prioritize projects that will improve travel to and through the state of Nevada. Further development of our state’s airports will be a top priority.   Throughout his time in Congress and the Nevada State Assembly, Heller has worked for solutions that will promote Nevada’s tourism economy. In 2015, Heller successfully [secured tourism-focused provisions](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=D94FBB96-DF60-4ED3-9AB7-6E6EFC351F0E) in the first long-term highway bill approved by Congress in nearly a decade. In 2016, he included policies in the [Senate-passed aviation bill](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=0F051418-8AA3-45A7-8CD5-461184BAC3D8) to bolster air service at smaller airports and expand facilities that offer multiple modes of transportation (i.e. bus, rail, Uber, and taxis). In the final days of the 114th Congress, the Nevada delegation successfully enacted bipartisan legislation that encourages public-private partnerships to boost staffing and make infrastructure improvements at airports – [the Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act](https://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=444EA441-4821-4EBA-B92D-58A53AD8C127).

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