



KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF AERONAUTICS

# Gerald R. Ford International Airport

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## News Release

December 19, 2012

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Deputy Executive Director  
Gerald R. Ford International Airport  
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## **A Capitol Idea! New Nonstop Service Coming to Ford International**

Gerald R. Ford International Airport (GFIA) and United Airlines officials are pleased to announce new nonstop service from GFIA to Washington Dulles International Airport. This twice-daily service, to be operated by ExpressJet under the United Express banner, is scheduled to launch Wednesday, May 1, 2013. United Airlines has made tickets available for purchase starting today. The addition of this new service will bring to 22 the number of nonstop destinations available at GFIA.

Scheduled weekday departures from GFIA are 9:15 am and 2:30 pm, with scheduled arrivals back at GFIA at 2:05 pm and 8:23 pm. The route will be operated with 50-seat Embraer regional jet aircraft. United currently serves Grand Rapids to hubs in Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Houston and New York.

Airport Executive Director, Brian Ryks, states, "We are very pleased to be a part of United Airline's expanding network. The addition of service to Washington-Dulles International not only offers our West Michigan flyers a nonstop flight to our nation's capital, it also provides excellent domestic and international connections through another major hub airport."

*Gerald R. Ford International is the second busiest airport in Michigan, and ranks among the top 15% of busiest airports in the U.S. The airport currently serves more than 2 million passengers annually.*

*United Airlines and United Express operate an average of 5,557 flights a day to 378 airports on six continents from the airline's hubs in Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Guam, Houston, Los Angeles, New York/Newark, San Francisco, Tokyo and Washington DC. In 2011 United carried more traffic than any other airline in the world, and operated more than two million flights carrying 142 million passengers. United is a founding member of Star Alliance, which provides service to 193 countries via 27 member airlines.*