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The American Chamber of Commerce Ireland (AmCham) is pleased to contribute to the Committee's consideration of the Dublin Airport (Passenger Cap) Bill 2026.

AmCham is the collective voice of US companies in Ireland and the leading international business organisation supporting the Transatlantic business relationship. Our members are the Irish operations of all the major US companies in every sector present here, Irish companies with operations in the United States and organisations with close linkages to US-Ireland trade and investment.

In a recent AmCham survey, four in five responding organisations said that their corporate headquarters held a positive view of Ireland as an investment and growth location based on the experience of Irish operations in 2025. Further, twenty four percent of respondents identified national commitments relating to 'Major Transport Projects' as the greatest opportunity for Ireland's growth and investment environment, the second highest cohort in this field.

At a time of rising global competition for FDI, and rapidly changing geopolitical dynamics, it is imperative that Ireland pursues policies at home and abroad to further enhance Ireland's reputation as a premier location for investment and growth. Key to ensuring Ireland's long-term competitiveness and attractiveness for FDI will be investing in critical infrastructure. Connectivity and transport will be vital in this cause.

Dublin Airport plays a significant role in the economic and social fabric of the country. As an open, island economy, Dublin Airport represents a key gateway to Ireland, supporting almost every sector of the economy. AmCham has consistently advocated for the removal of the Dublin Airport passenger cap, including in its pre-Budget 2026 submission, its submission to the Department of Transport's Statement of Strategy 2025 – 2028, and more.

The removal of the Dublin Airport passenger cap represents an opportunity to ensure that the State's capacity to facilitate economic growth and investment remains consistent across Government, while also meeting the needs of a growing population.

As a vital link between Ireland and the wider world, Dublin Airport plays a critical role in the export and importation of goods to and from Ireland, a pivotal component in the nation's economic success to date. Through further action to enhance Dublin Airport's economic activity and by allowing for greater numbers of passengers, the Oireachtas can ensure that Ireland is prepared and ready to take advantage of emerging economic opportunities. This includes strengthening our domestic and international supply chains, boosting export and import capacity, supporting growing sectoral aspects such

as cold-chain technology and more. This growth requires clear, and predictable policy and regulation in order to optimise the potential benefits to Ireland's economy.

Ireland's air connectivity is of paramount importance to the State's ability to foster inward investment, and to support Irish companies grow at scale and gain footholds in international markets, supporting jobs for Irish workers and developing domestic sectors. While Dublin Airport is key to this objective, AmCham further supports the development of Ireland's regional connectivity, including through Cork, Donegal, Kerry, Knock and Shannon airports.

US companies in Ireland directly support 245,000 jobs in the Irish economic and indirectly support a further 175,000 jobs. Ireland is also the fifth largest source of foreign direct investment into the US. Ireland's air connectivity, through Dublin Airport, and through Shannon Airport, with the US supports the two-way transatlantic trade and investment relationship. Ensuring the capacity exists for transatlantic connections to grow will be key in strengthening the two-way relationship into the future, supporting Irish companies in enhancing their footprint in the US, and ensuring Ireland further enhances its attractiveness for inward investment from the US.

Further, by facilitating new connections via Dublin Airport between Ireland and emerging markets, Ireland can remain on the forefront of international trade. Moreover, such potential linkages can play a vital role in developing cultural and societal exchanges, while also making it easier for international talent to relocate to Ireland. As detailed in a recent AmCham survey, sixty three percent of respondents stated that access to a highly skilled talent pipeline was Ireland's greatest competitive advantage. Ensuring connectivity for talent is core to developing Ireland's reputation as a global talent hub, further strengthening investment strategies.

In the context of the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Transport's pre-legislative scrutiny of the Dublin Airport (Passenger Cap) Bill 2026, AmCham supports the proposal to provide the Minister of Transport with the necessary authority to revoke or amend planning conditions that limit the number of passengers at Dublin Airport. Further, AmCham supports the inclusion of wording clarifying, under Head (5), sub-head (6), that such a decision to revoke or amend planning conditions that limit passenger capacity at Dublin Airport be implemented immediately, subsequent to the making of the order.

As a small, island nation, Ireland has consistently pursued economic policies that have placed Ireland at the heart of transatlantic trade, and positioned the State as a leading economic voice within the European Union. Ireland's economic success has brought significant advancements to the quality of life of the population, developed an

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ambitious, forward-looking enterprise environment, and made Ireland a bridge between the EU and the US.

By removing the Dublin Airport passenger cap, Ireland can continue to demonstrate its pro-growth approach to economic policy, and send a clear message to the business community that Ireland remains ambitious in its desire to attract greater levels of investment and to support indigenous businesses to grow beyond Ireland's borders.