

MITCHELL AIRPORT CELEBRATES ALASKA AIRLINES LAUNCH OF NONSTOP FLIGHTS TO SEATTLE

MILWAUKEE (July 1, 2015) – Alaska Airlines kicked off its new daily nonstop service between Milwaukee County's General Mitchell International Airport and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport this afternoon.

"Alaska Airlines has developed a great reputation among travelers and will be wellreceived in Milwaukee. We couldn't be more excited to welcome Alaska to MKE," Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele said. "The new route launched today strengthens our west coast service while allowing for easy connections to the Pacific Northwest and Hawaii."

County Executive Abele and Supervisor Michael Mayo, Sr., passed out samples of Colectivo Coffee to each passenger arriving from Seattle to commemorate the first flight and welcome travelers to Milwaukee.

Alaska's new nonstop service to Seattle is operated with spacious Embraer E175 jets, featuring 12 seats in first class and 64 in coach. Onboard amenities include Wi-Fi Internet access, streaming inflight entertainment and 110 volt power in every first class seat. Hot meals and picnic packs are available for purchase, in addition to Northwest microbrews and wine.

"Milwaukee is an exciting new destination for our customers in the Pacific Northwest," said John Kirby, Alaska's vice president of capacity planning. "In Seattle we love our music, so it's only fitting that we're launching our new service to the 'City of Festivals' smack in the middle of Summerfest."

Alaska Airlines, based in Seattle, serves more than 100 destinations in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Flights can be booked online at <u>www.alaskaair.com</u>.

Mitchell Airport offers nonstop flights to 39 destinations coast-to-coast, and 160 international destinations are available from Milwaukee with just one connection. MKE is also served by Southwest, Delta, United, American/US Airways, Frontier, Air Canada, and OneJet. The complete list of nonstop cities is online at <u>www.mitchellairport.com</u>.

General Mitchell International Airport is owned by Milwaukee County and operated by the Department of Transportation, Airport Division, under the policy direction of the Milwaukee County Executive and the County Board of Supervisors. The airport is entirely funded by user fees; no property tax dollars are used for the airport's capital improvements or for its day-to-day operation.