

U.S.-Japan pact may encourage transportation

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A U.S.-Japan aviation agreement reached recently could encourage the development of an Alaska hub for passenger and cargo flights between the United States and the Far East, according to Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska.

Under the agreement any air carrier flying between the two countries may stop over in Alaska, Stevens said.

Existing agreements limit the number of stopovers.

"This stopover provision is unique to Alaska," Stevens said. "Alaska is the only state where air carriers serving the U.S. and Japan can stop over without negotiating a special agreement."

In addition, the new U.S.-Japan agreement affirms existing Flying Tigers cargo rights which the Japanese government refused to recognize. The flights allow Flying Tigers, now owned by Federal Express, to deliver cargo between Europe and Japan via Alaska.