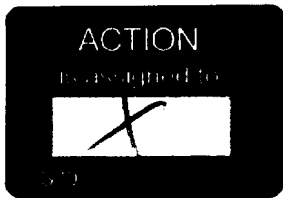




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OCT-97-2873-9

Office of the President
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September 24, 1997

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Suite 10200
Washington, DC 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Dear Secretary Slater:

This letter is written in support of an application by AirTran Airways for non-stop jet service between Knoxville and Washington National Airport. Specifically, the request is for an exemption from Subparts K and S of 14 CFR PART 93, Slot Restrictions at Washington National Airport.

Washington, DC is currently the second largest destination from Knoxville, and is the largest destination without non-stop jet service. Granting this exemption would serve to improve significantly the air passenger service in Knoxville while generating more competitive fares among carriers.

Thank you for consideration of this important matter. We appreciate all you do so well for Tennessee and for the nation.

Sincerely,

Joseph E. Johnson
President

J EJ/jp

c: Mr. Terry Igoe

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