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**Northern
Maine
Development
Commission**

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January 29, 2001

Mr. Dennis J. DeVany, Chief E.A.S. Division
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

OST-00-80/2-9

SUBJECT: Northern Maine Regional Airport – Essential Air Service Program

Dear Mr. DeVany:

Northern Maine Development Commission, Inc. (NMDC) supports and concurs with the community's selection of Option 2 for replacement air service at Northern Maine Regional Airport in Presque Isle, Maine.

NMDC is a regional development organization providing land use planning, economic development services and financial support to businesses in northern Maine. In 1999, NMDC developed an economic development strategic plan for the northern Maine region which included participation by over 800 people throughout the process.

The strategic plan for northern Maine contains three primary goals that were also considered to be the primary constraints to achieving the plan's vision. These goals consisted of the following:

- Goal I: Support Business Success – Create an environment that supports the success of existing businesses and new start-ups.
- Goal II: Promote Aroostook County – Implement an integrated regional marketing program for business and tourism development.
- Goal III: Improve Public Infrastructure Systems – Upgrade the condition and capacity of the infrastructure to support business expansion.

The strategic plan identified increasing commercial flight capacity as a primary strategy to improving the region's transportation system. The region has been successful in obtaining the necessary resources to address other issues in the plan such as an aggressive business attraction/marketing plan, increased tourism development in all seasons, and new programs to assist existing and new businesses.



www.nmdc.org

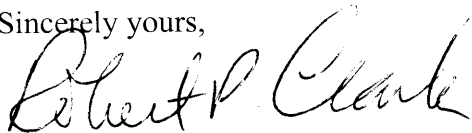
Mr. Dennis J. DeVany – Page Two

Business people considering northern Maine for expansion of their businesses require reliable, cost effective, and cabin class accommodations for their management that must commute to their satellite operations. The type of air service that Option 2 provides is necessary in order for northern Maine to attract increased business investment in the region as well as increased tourism development in all seasons.

NMDC has been an active participant in the Air Service Task Force work dedicated to the Northern Maine Regional Airport because it is an essential component of our transportation system. We believe that an investment in Option 2 will provide additional benefits to our region as well as the federal government.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at any time. I look forward to your favorable decision on our request for Option 2 for replacement air service for our region.

Sincerely yours,



Robert P. Clark
Executive Director