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GULF SHORES ORANGE BEACH

ALABAMA GULF COAST CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

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January 2, 2003

Mr. Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation

Document Management System

Re: Docket OST-2000-7182 - 474

Via fax to: 202-493-2251

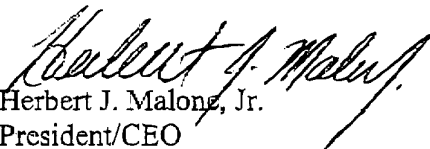
Dear Secretary Mineta:

On behalf of the \$1.6 billion dollar tourism industry located along Alabama's Gulf Coast, I am writing in support of U.S. Airways' application for Within-Perimeter Exemptions at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, specifically for service to Mobile Regional Airport.

Alabama's Gulf Coast is emerging as one of America's fastest growing mid-size tourism destinations. Our area has grown to over 13,000 accommodation units due to its popularity, an effective marketing campaign, and tremendous private sector investment.

Approval of U.S. Airways' application will significantly enhance the tourism growth and development of Alabama's Gulf Coast by providing much-needed non-stop air service to and from our nation's capitol and the surrounding region. Further, this non-stop service will be consistent with the Department of Transportation's efforts to increase competition and improve air service quality in mid-sized communities.

Best regards,


Herbert J. Malone, Jr.
President/CEO

c: Mr. Marc P. Pelham, Mobile Airport Authority

HJMj/sl