



DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

03 JAN -6 AM 9:18

North Carolina General Assembly
Senate Chamber
State Legislative Building
Raleigh 27601-2808

SENATOR PATRICK J. BALLANTINE
4TH DISTRICT

January 2, 2003

Norman Y. Maneta
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20509

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to my attention that Corporate Airlines has applied for six vacant slots at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport in Washington, D.C. I fully support this petition and I encourage the US Department of Transportation to **grant** their request for exemption.

Corporate meets all requisite criteria for an airline to be considered for exemption and they are equally capable of fulfilling their responsibilities to their passengers. Corporate's proposed service would provide nonstop air transportation to some of North Carolina's small communities not presently served from Reagan National. Furthermore, this proposed service would also provide the maximum competitive benefits, including low fares. In addition to providing these small towns with direct flights to our Nation's Capital, Eastern North Carolina would benefit substantially from an economic standpoint.

Again, I strongly support Corporate Airlines in this venture and I sincerely hope that the Department of Transportation will grant Corporate Airlines the six open slots at the Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Senator Patrick Ballantine
Senate Minority Leader

