



OST-2002-11348-10

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

2003 MAR 26 P 1:04

March 17, 2003

Mr. Dennis Devanni
Chief - Essential Air Service Program
Room 6401, US DOT
400 7th St., SW
Washington DC, 20590

Re: Air Midwest's Request to Cease Operations in Athens Georgia

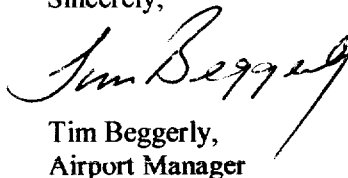
Dear Mr. Devanni,

On behalf of the Athens Airport Authority and the Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County, I would like to express our concern over the recent request of Air Midwest to cease operations at Athens Ben Epps Airport.

If approved, this request would leave our airport without any air service therefore removing Athens and NE Georgia from that vital link to the National Air Transportation System. Not only would this have devastating affects on the Athens Airport but to this entire community. Therefore we are requesting your assistance through the Essential Air Service Program to keep an air carrier operating at our airport.

The Athens Airport Authority and Unified Government of Athens-Clarke County will work with you in every way possible to secure our air service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,



Tim Beggerly,
Airport Manager

C: Colleen Marie O'Day, Esq., Mesa Air Group, Inc.
Heidi Davison, Mayor Athens-Clarke County
Jim Box, Chair Airport Authority
Alan Reddish, Athens-Clarke County Manager

Attachment

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BEN EPPS AIRPORT

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