

January 31, 2000

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater  
Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street SW  
Room 10200  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We ask that the Department accept this letter as a supplement to Sioux City's existing application and that it be filed in Docket # OST-99-5475.

On January 26, 2000, Trans States Airlines, which operates as Trans World Express, announced that they were discontinuing service from Sioux City to St. Louis effective March 2, 2000. This leaves us with only one carrier, Northwest Airlines, serving one hub, Minneapolis.

This recent change in our air service makes it even more critical that we gain access to Chicago O'Hare. We are aware that the Department has expressed reluctance to award further slot exemptions directly to communities or other non air carrier entities. We have no objection to the Department granting the necessary exemptions for implementation of Sioux City - O'Hare service directly to a willing carrier rather than to us. We are working with a carrier that is interested in our market and is willing to provide the service if we are able to secure slot exemptions. It is obvious that we also have the support of the community and our tri-state congressional delegation for this application.

The purpose of this letter is to reinforce the urgency of our situation. Therefore, we ask the Department for expeditious relief by awarding four slot exemptions at O'Hare for Sioux City service to either the community or to an air carrier applicant. Granting such a small number of slot exemptions would have very little impact on the environment yet would have an enormous impact on the quality of air service in Siouxland.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Michael A. Klein  
Airport Director

Barbara Sloniker  
Airport Marketing

c. Senator Charles Grassley  
Senator Tom Harkin  
Representative Tom Latham

Senator Chuck Hagel  
Senator J. Robert Kerrey  
Representative Doug Bereuter

Senator Tom Daschle  
Senator Tim Johnson  
Representative John Thune