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**BEFORE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

Application of

**AirTran Airways, Inc.**

For an exemption from Subparts K  
and S of 14 CFR Part 93 (Slot Restrictions at New  
York LaGuardia Airport) as to provide nonstop  
service between:

Bloomington/Normal, IL/Moline-Quad Cities, IL  
& New York LaGuardia (combination service);

et al.

**Docket: OST-97-2557**

**Response In Support of AirTran Filing on Behalf of  
Moline/Quad Cities and Bloomington/Normal, IL**

Communications with respect to this document should be addressed to:

Mr. Kent G. George, A.A.E.  
Director of Aviation  
Metropolitan Airport Authority  
of Rock Island County, IL  
Quad City International Airport  
P. O. Box 9009  
Moline, IL 61265-9621

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The Moline/Quad City International Airport, along with the 770,000 plus residents of the Illinois/Iowa Quad Cities wish to add their support to the above filing on the part of AirTran Airways, Inc. (AirTran). AirTran's proposed new service would significantly increase the availability of air service to one of the Quad Cities most important markets. The overall community has been growing considerably in the last few years and traffic has increased 11+% increase in 1996 and to date this year a 6.8% increase over last year's passengers has additionally been realized.

Included with this filing as Exhibit A is an Air Service Study conducted by the Quad City International Airport's consultant, Michael Boyd of Aviation Systems Research Corporation, Golden, Colorado, which clearly supports the need for the service. Additionally, Exhibit B contains letters of support for the granting of slots to AirTran for the service to the Quad Cities and Bloomington/Normal. The response from the federal, state and local legislators, along with the corporate community, over the last week to ten days has been overwhelming as is exhibited in the attached letters of support. Enclosed with the letters of support are various articles from local newspapers concerning this service. The newspapers, together with the television and radio response, has been outstanding.

In closing, Airtran's request meets all of the provisions of the exemption section of 14 CFR Part 93. This positive response to the exemption request will not only act in compliance with the law but also serve to support and enhance the competitiveness of air service into and out of the Quad City International Airport.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kent G. George', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is somewhat stylized and scribbled.

Kent G. George, A.A.E.  
Director of Aviation  
Metropolitan Airport Authority of  
Rock Island County, Illinois  
P. O. Box 9009  
Moline, IL 61265  
(309) 757-1732

June 9, 1997