



DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET SECTION



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October 29, 1998

Ms. Paulette Twine, Chief
Documentary Service Division
United States Department of Transportation
Room PL-401
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

OST-98-4647-4

Re: Petition in Support of American Eagle's Slot Exemption Application
for Nonstop Regional Jet Service Between Greenville/Spartanburg,
South Carolina, and Chicago's O'Hare International Airport
(Docket OST-98-4647)

Dear Ms. Twine:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Spartanburg Area Chamber of Commerce, I want to strongly express our support for American Eagle's recent application for three time slot exemptions at Chicago's O'Hare Airport to make possible nonstop regional jet service between O'Hare and Greenville/Spartanburg. We understand that American Eagle has indicated to the USDOT that it would begin service in January, 1999. May we please urge you to act on this application as expeditiously as possible.

Securing nonstop jet service to O'Hare is critical to the economy of western South Carolina. Our business travelers to Chicago and the upper Midwest must now backtrack to Charlotte or endure increasing delays at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. Our travelers are paying the highest fares in the country for the privilege of enduring the inconvenience of one-stop service to Chicago. Having the nonstop jet service would provide us with a tremendous incentive for companies looking to locate in our area. Currently, we have several companies headquartered in Chicago.

We urge the Department to approve American Eagle's proposed service as soon as possible, so as to allow service to begin in January, 1999. Thank you so much for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Charles P. Ewart, CCE
President & CEO