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COUNTY OF ONEIDA

Office of the County Executive

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RALPH J. EANNACE, JR.
County Executive

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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Correspondence

Nov. 29, 2000

Mr. Kevin Adams, Transportation Analyst
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th St. SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Adams,

I am filing a formal protest with your office over the plan by CommutAir to reduce air service to Oneida County Airport below an acceptable level.

CommutAir's recently announced plan to cut service to two flights per day to Syracuse effective Dec. 2 was unilaterally communicated to the media without any notice to Oneida County government, nor were we a part of any negotiations with CommutAir.

CommutAir has applied for and received federal assistance to provide essential air service to this region. The proposed service is woefully short of that standard. A recent survey by our local travel agents shows that New York City and Florida are the top two destinations of choice, with about 45,000 enplanements per year to each location. However, CommutAir only offers service to Syracuse through to Boston and has now cut service from four departures and four arrivals per day to two departures and two arrivals per day.

This is not meeting the needs of this community and by no means can be considered providing the essential air service this region requires. It is absolutely unacceptable.

We are putting forth a great effort to rebuild the air service in our community. CommutAir's actions are an unfair blow. I will be delighted to work with your department to find a better and an acceptable alternative that will give Oneida County the air service it not only needs but deserves.

Sincerely,

Ralph J. Eannace, Jr.
Oneida County Executive

cc: U.S. Rep. Sherwood Boehlert
U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer