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November 12, 1997

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, N. W.
Washington, DC 20950

Re: Docket No. OST-97-3087

Dear Secretary Slater:

On November 4, 1997, Access Air filed with your office an Application for Exemption from the slot restriction rule at LaGuardia Airport in New York. Our organization supports this application and requests your assistance in assuring a complete review and approval by the U.S. DOT.

For more than two years, our organization has been working with the Quad Cities Airport Authority and other business groups in our metro area to enhance service to Moline/Quad Cities Airport. Our Quad Cities Air Service Committee also supports this application for service to LaGuardia.

The proposed service from Des Moines through Moline/Quad Cities to New York's LaGuardia Airport would make service available to more than 700,000 people within the Quad Cities and surrounding area. Coupled with the Des Moines metro area, this means a market of more than one million people for Access Air service to LaGuardia.

In late October, your office denied a similar application by AirTran Airways with the explanation that such service would involve only a small number of passengers. The Boyd Group, a consultant working with our Air Service Committee, estimates more than 40,000 passengers would use and benefit from this service. We believe, as Access Air does, that market conditions would justify this service.

We hope the U.S. DOT will agree, Mr. Secretary, that the Application for Exemption by Access Air is in the public interest, will benefit both business and discretionary travelers and would enhance the economy of our bi-state area.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Larry S. Reed,
President