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## TELECONFERENCE SUMMARY

### **Congressman Joseph R. Pitts (R-16th) of Pennsylvania regarding EAS at Lancaster**

OST - 2002-11450-10

On April 3, 2002, a teleconference was held with Congressman Pitts and DOT officials concerning the question of the subsidy eligibility of Lancaster, PA, under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program.

DOT officials participating in the teleconference were, Read C. Van de Water (Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs), Sean O'Hollaren (Assistant Secretary for Government Affairs), Matthew C. Harris (Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs), and Dennis DeVany (Chief of the EAS Division).

The teleconference was arranged at the Secretary's request to address the concerns Congressman Pitts had raised in a letter addressing the matter.

Congressman Pitts stressed several points related to the community's belief that it should be eligible for subsidized EAS. He mentioned the overall importance of scheduled air service to the Lancaster community, and his interest in assisting the community in its efforts to establish subsidy eligibility. He told of the strong, grass-roots efforts in Lancaster to promote air service in the community, and of his understanding that most Lancaster citizens who drive to Philadelphia International Airport, the closest hub airport, take the quickest route which is easily over 70 highway miles long, thus giving the Department the discretion to authorize subsidy. He encouraged the Department to use that discretion to subsidize a carrier to serve Lancaster.

In closing, Congressman Pitts asked that the Department to please keep him informed of any decisions in the case. DOT officials assured him that he would be contacted as soon as any final decision was reached.

The teleconference began at approximately 9:00 AM and concluded about 9:15 AM.

Notes Submitted by Dennis DeVany for DOT