

Request for extension of Proceeding--Docket OST-1998-4706

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CITY OF GALLUP
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
STATE OF NEW MEXICO

April 17, 2002

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Mr. Dennis J. DeVany
Chief, Essential Air Service Division, X-53
Office of Aviation Analysis
400 Seventh St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

OST-98-4706-24

Re: **Essential Air Service Gallup, New Mexico**

Dear Mr. DeVany:

On Tuesday, April 16, 2002 The Gallup City Council heard presentations from all four airlines who have submitted proposals to you concerning the Essential Air Service program for Gallup, New Mexico.

As stated in my original letter to you, Gallup's proven demand is for Phoenix service. After Mesa moved our hub from Phoenix to Albuquerque, passenger traffic has been less than one tenth of the Phoenix traffic. Our business community, the medical and business needs of the adjacent Navajo Nation and Zuni Nation and the discretionary traveler are oriented toward Phoenix.

Increasing our enplanements will not only lower the \$200 per head threshold for continuing EAS service to Gallup but will also move us toward the enplanement level at which meaningful AIP (Airport Improvement Program) funds are made available for badly needed safety and security construction projects.

Mesa and Rio Grande Air both expressed their willingness and interest in providing Phoenix service even though their proposals to you were for Albuquerque service.

On behalf of the City Council of the City of Gallup, I hereby request that you allow all four originally submitting airlines to provide you with Phoenix service proposals before making a decision on the appointment of an Essential Air Service carrier for Gallup. The City Council and I feel strongly that the acquisition of the highest quality nonstop air service to and from Phoenix is essential and in the best interest of our citizens.

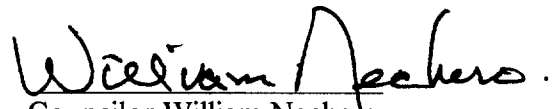
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I remain available to come to Washington to discuss this matter if needed. Thank you for your consideration. Should you need additional information please contact me at your convenience.

Sincerely,



Honorable John Pena
Mayor of Gallup



Councilor William Nechero
Mayor Pro-tem
