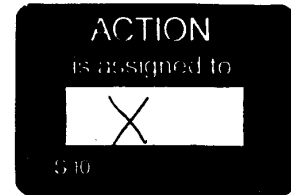


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Airport Commissioners → Steve Accinelli Doug Brotherton Teri Goodman John Markham Jim O'Neill



December 9, 2002

The Honorable Norman Mineta
Secretary
US Department of Transportation
400 7th St, SW
Washington, DC 20590

The Honorable John Ashcroft
Attorney General
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Secretary Mineta and Attorney General Ashcroft:

On behalf of the Dubuque Regional Airport Commission, I am writing in support of the airline marketing agreement between Northwest, Continental, and Delta, that involves codesharing, frequent flyer miles, and reciprocity of airport lounge programs.

Small communities across the country have continued to lose air service and Dubuque is no exception. Through codesharing agreements we feel this will help to protect what air service has remained for the Dubuque area. Currently, Northwest serves our market and by allowing this codeshare between the airlines we can better serve our public. The airlines have been relying on cooperative marketing agreements to meet consumer demand for over a decade. Through this new codeshare, frequent flyer miles, and airport lounge program agreements these airlines can effectively extend their networks and offer our consumers convenient online service to a broad array of destinations. Every major US airline has entered into such an arrangement with other US and foreign airlines at one time or another.

Connecting the Delta system to the current Northwest/Continental route system in Dubuque would greatly expand the number of destinations and travel flexibility available to our many business and leisure travelers.

The new agreement will build upon the demonstrated benefits of the current Northwest/Continental relationship, while not lessening competition among the airlines. Business and leisure travelers of Dubuque and from around the country will gain single airline access to new domestic and international cities, add convenience and expanded air connectivity in existing online markets, and a broader range of frequent flyer miles and airport lounge programs.

**Secretary Mineta and Attorney General Ashcroft
December 9, 2002
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For the survival of Dubuque and small community air service, we respectfully request your support for the proposed marketing agreement between Northwest, Delta, and Continental Airlines. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



**James P. O'Neill
Dubuque Regional Airport
Chairperson**

**cc: Senator Charles Grassley
Senator Tom Harkin
Congressman Jim Nussle
Governor Tom Vilsack**