

240676

CITY OF JAMESTOWN



NORTH DAKOTA

OST-1997-2785
CIVIC PARTY COMMENTS

OFFICE OF MAYOR
102 THIRD AVENUE SOUTHEAST

PHONE 701/252-5900
FAX 701/252-5903

Friday, April 11, 2003

Dennis J. DeVany, Chief
US Department of Transportation
EAS/Domestic Analysis Division -- X53
Room 6417 I
400 7th St. S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

2003 APR 18 A 10:38
DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

RE: DOCKET OST - 2785 -16
SERVED: MARCH 25, 2003

Dear Mr. DeVany:

At its April 7, 2003 meeting, the Jamestown, North Dakota, City Council passed a resolution to share their concerns with the cutback of Essential Air Service funds to our local carrier, Great Lakes Airlines.

Great Lakes has announced that they will cut the number of round trip flights from Devils Lake, ND, and Jamestown, ND, to Minneapolis, from 18 to 12 flights. This will result in two round trip flights, Monday thru Friday and one on Saturday and one on Sunday. This will mean one less flight on each day of the week.

From an economic and convenience standpoint, this will not serve the needs of our two communities and will cause a hardship on business and leisure passengers.

Our two communities are having a hard time increasing boardings because of poor connections in the Twin Cities, size of planes and lack of promotional advertising. Most recently, Great Lakes dropped its ties to United Airlines and is now doing its own reservations. It is hard for our travel agents and internet ticket buyers to get tickets when they cannot access the reservation system. This has driven up the cost of flying Great Lakes and has decreased boardings significantly.

Thank you for allowing our comments and we urge you to consider these points when talking EAS to Devils Lake and Jamestown.

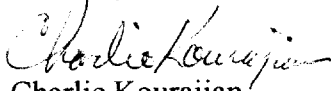
- The need for consistent, reliable service
- Accessibility to the Reservation System of whatever carrier is chosen
- A more aggressive marketing plan

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- Code sharing
- The National Guard Military Academy at Camp Grafton, south of Devils Lake, needs better air service for service personnel to travel to and from there for training
- Frequency of service and size of aircraft

The City of Jamestown is willing to work with whatever airline you choose and looks forward to the best situation possible in these trying times.

Sincerely,



Charlie Kourajian
Mayor of Jamestown

cc: Governor John Hoeven, State of North Dakota
Senator Byron Dorgan, US Senate
Senator Kent Conrad, US Senate
Gary R. Ness, Director ND Aeronautics Commission
Representative Earl Pomeroy, US House of Representatives
Richard King, Jamestown Airport Manager
Ken Koehn, Devils Lake Airport Manager