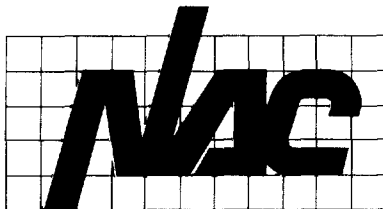


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**Norfolk Area  
Chamber of Commerce**

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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OST-98-3704-18

United States Department of Transportation  
Docket Operations & Media Management Division  
M-30, Room PL-401  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

July 3, 2003

Re: Docket OST-1998-3704, Show cause order, EAS

Dear Sir,

The Board of Directors of the Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce, by unanimous resolution, have directed me to file this letter of objection to DOT's show cause order # OST-1998-3704.

Our objection to the show cause order is based on recent, significant changes in operations by Great Lakes Airlines, the EAS carrier. On April 7, 2003, Great Lakes made changes to their flight schedules that more accommodate the needs of the business traveler. Boardings at Karl Stefan Memorial Airport have increased significantly, and in fact, are high enough to meet the EAS minimums, should they be sustainable.

The Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce is a business association representing 605 member firms. Cumulatively, we represent 10,000 area employees. Readily available commercial air travel is very important to our membership. The changes made by new Great Lakes C.E.O. Chuck Howell, were directed to these business customers, and it appears, based on sharp increases in boardings, that there is indeed strong demand for local carrier service.

We urge the Department of Transportation to resend the show cause order for a period of one year, during which time additional supporting evidence will almost certainly support continued EAS endorsement.

Sincerely,

Dan S. Mauk, President  
Norfolk Area Chamber of Commerce

