

Correspondence

Doc # 1998-4899-46  
268546  
X1-040128-006



# WRANGELL Chamber of Commerce

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

3:40

P.O. Box 49, Wrangell, Alaska 99929

(907) 874-3901

January 12, 2004

268546

Mr. Mike Reynolds  
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aviation and International Affairs  
Department of Transportation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Continuation of Alaska Airlines EAS Service at Wrangell

Dear Mr. Reynolds,

The Wrangell Chamber of commerce would like to express our strong support for Alaska Airlines being selected to continue to provide essential air service using jet aircraft to our community. The service Alaska Airlines is currently providing is critical for the continued access and economic well being of Wrangell as well as that of this entire region of the state.

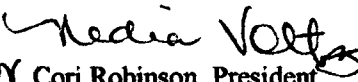
The existing pattern of service – using jet aircraft – offers important benefits that would be difficult, if not impossible, to match with any other type of service or aircraft type:

- Route network/ease of connections – Alaska Airlines route system now stretches coast to coast and marketing partnerships with other carriers provide virtually a global reach. Through-plane service from our community to hubs in Anchorage, Juneau and Seattle provide easy access to this network.
- Freight capabilities – Our community depends on scheduled air freight shipments for many of our daily necessities and the added belly and maindeck capacity of Alaska's "combi" aircraft is extremely important. Additionally, our economic base is closely tied to commercial fishing. Alaska's jet service offers key cargo capacity allowing transport of seafood products to the rest of the U.S. in a timely, dependable manner.

With no road system connecting Wrangell to the rest of the state, we are for the most part isolated and extremely dependent on reliable air access. Alaska Airlines has provided this reliable access for years. Further by pioneering use of advanced technology flight navigation equipment aboard many of their jet aircraft, they have been able to further improve the safety and dependability of this access.

For these reasons, the Wrangell Chamber of Commerce respectfully urges DOT to select Alaska Airlines for continued essential air service to Wrangell.

Sincerely,

*for*   
Cori Robinson, President  
Wrangell Chamber of Commerce

cc: Senator Ted Stevens, 522 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510  
cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington DC 20510  
cc: Congressman Don Young, 2331 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington DC 20515

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS  
2004 FEB -6 P 3:40

## The Stikine River Playground