



*City Comments*

*Docket OST-2003-14535-34*

1818 Avenue A

Scottsbluff, NE 69361

308-632-4136

*274917*

March 16, 2004

Dennis J. DeVany  
Essential Air Service Division, X-53  
Room 6401  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

2004 MAR 29 P 2:03

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DENVER

Re: Carrier Air Service – Scottsbluff

Dear Mr. DeVany:

On behalf of the City of Scottsbluff City Council, I would like to thank you for allowing us the opportunity to express our opinion regarding airline service from Scottsbluff to Denver.

At a regular meeting of the Scottsbluff City Council held March 15, 2004, Darwin Skelton of Western Nebraska Regional Airport was present to offer the quotes for air carrier service (Essential Air Service) and to offer the Airport Board's recommendation for that service.

The City understands the difficulties the community had in the past with the service provided by Mesa Airlines and is cautious to recommend a carrier with this type of history attached. It is also a concern that this airline has underbid the service route and fear that the community's inability to fulfill the passenger requirements would again lead to strained relations and cancelled flights.

It is the consensus of this Council that Great Lakes Airlines has served the region well over the past several years and continues to improve. Great Lakes is offering service to Denver using their Brasilia aircraft which will seat thirty passengers which will offer the area some flexibility with its boardings. It is the hope of the Airport Board that the higher number of available seats will offer a lower cost for the traveling public and increase the use.

By unanimous vote of the Scottsbluff City Council, we recommend that the Department of Transportation award the Scottsbluff to Denver air service contract to Great Lakes Airlines.

We thank you for your time and consideration. The community looks forward to receiving the decision of the Department of Transportation for the Scottsbluff to Denver service.

Sincerely,

Fiona Libsack  
Mayor