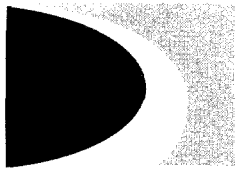


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Civic Community
Docket OST-1996-1715-49



The **DEVELOPMENT** Council

The Development Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

March 22, 2004

Mr. Dennis DeVany, Division Chief
Essential Air Service Division
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. DeVany:

I'm writing to express The Development Council's enthusiastic support for the innovative partnership forged by Kearney and Grand Island to enhance Central Nebraska air service. If approved and effectively implemented it will establish a foundation for future market stability and potential independence from Essential Air Service subsidy.

By adding Kansas City to the existing service to Denver, the greater Kearney area will have much improved access to the national transportation system, an essential element in our market's economic prosperity. Existing businesses, as well as those whom we hope to attract, rely heavily on air service to reach their customers and for their suppliers to reach them. The proposed linkage greatly improves our market's accessibility.

We've been informed that your department has encouraged "out of the box" thinking to better utilize EAS funds, and in our opinion the proposed routings are precisely the kind of collaboration that DOT should encourage. Together, our markets, aligned with DOT and Great Lakes Airlines, can develop workable solutions that improve upon the traditional EAS model.

We're also pleased to report that Great Lakes Airlines has provided our market with good, reliable service and we're optimistic that they will continue to provide improving service to Central Nebraska if awarded this contract. Please give Great Lakes Airlines proposal #10 your serious consideration; it will improve service while more efficiently managing public funds.

Sincerely,

Ron Tillery
President

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20590
2004 MAR 22 10 11 AM