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Civic Comments Docket OST-1996-1715-50



NEBRASKA TURKEY GROWERS COOPERATIVE

308-468-5711 • P.O. BOX 640 • GIBBON, NEBRASKA 68840

March 19, 2004

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

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Dear Mr. DeVany:

This letter is written to inform you of our whole-hearted support of the Kearney-Grand Island proposal to provide Central Nebraska with enhanced air service under your Essential Air Service program. By adding Kansas City to the existing service to Denver, we at Nebraska Turkey Growers Cooperative will have improved access to the national transportation grid. This will translate into increased productivity and savings to our company, our customers and our vendors.

The Kansas City airport offers options that are very appealing. We believe access to MCI in addition to the Denver airport would significantly increase our use of the Kearney Municipal Airport. Through this market linkage we believe Kearney and Grand Island will be in a much stronger competitive position thereby improving the market's ability to succeed if EAS subsidies were to be reduced in the future. In our opinion, this is precisely the kind of collaboration that DOT should encourage.

We encourage you to give the proposal your serious consideration, as it would be extremely good for rural Nebraska.

Sincerely,

Nebraska Turkey Growers

Deborah VanMatre
General Manager