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# CLEARFIELD-JEFFERSON COUNTIES REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

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May 11, 2004

DENNIS DEVANEY  
CHIEF, EAS & DOMESTIC ANALYSIS  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
400 SEVENTH STREET, S.W.  
WASHINGTON DC 20590

Dear Mr. Devaney:

The Clearfield-Jefferson Counties Regional Airport Authority objects in theory to Mesa Airlines petition for Essential Air Service at the DuBois-Jefferson County Airport. The DuBois-Jefferson County Airport has been served continuously, without subsidy, by a commercial carrier since May 1960. However the Airport Authority realizes the need for such an application. The Airport Authority believes the need for commercial service has been established over those years and support Mesa's request for continued service.

The Airport Authority has taken some extreme measures over the past five years in order to avoid the need for an action such as this. The Airport Authority has developed a unique relationship with our biggest customer, Mesa Airlines. Traveling to Mesa's headquarters annually and sharing the reasons we were able to document that were keeping travelers off the commuter we felt was our contribution to making the system better. However increased competition from discount carriers outside the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, reliability issues, and some 'out of whack' schedules have driven passengers from the DuBois-Jefferson County Airport. These issues have all been addressed and to some degree corrected, but only after passengers have sought out other alternatives. The Airport Authority has recently, in the last year, brought onboard at their expense a marketing director to promote the airline service and the airport. This effort has proven to be successful by adding on the average of 200 passengers a month to the commuter. We believe these are customers that would never have looked at flying from the DuBois-Jefferson County Airport had it not been for our efforts. Recent pricing strategies by US Airways adds to the list of desirable reasons to fly from the DuBois-Jefferson County Airport, but again it should have been done sooner to keep the passengers on the planes instead of trying to get them to come back.

As you can see we have made some valiant efforts to keep passengers on the flights. We believe we can get them back and need assistance from the Essential Air Service for the time being. We look forward to the process and will be as supportive as we can be. If you need anything further from us please feel free to call on us.

Sincerely,

CLEARFIELD-JEFFERSON COUNTIES  
REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

Robert W. Shaffer  
Airport Manager

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LETTER INFORMATION  
BOOKS

Managing the DuBois-Jefferson  
County Airport