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North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission

A Pennsylvania Local Development District "LDD"

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Docket

OST - 2004 - 17617 - 16

July 9, 2004

Mr. Dennis DeVany
Chief, Essential Air Service & Domestic Analysis
Department of Transportation, Room 6401
400 Seventh Street, S. W.
Washington, DC 20590

2004 AUG 12 A 11:13

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Dear Mr. DeVany:

The North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission (NCPRPDC) certainly supports the Clearfield – Jefferson Counties Regional Airport Authority’s choice of Bid Option 2 for (4) roundtrip flights to Pittsburgh International Airport as outlined in the Mesa Air Group proposal will provide the best opportunity to continue to build passenger enplanements to the levels that existed in the years 190 – 2000 and more importantly to grow those enplanements to a level that will permit DUJ to regain self-sufficiency in the least amount of time.

The Airport is positioned to really begin to evolve into a major economic expansion with the new Access Road that will directly link Interstate 80 with the Airport. The Foreign Trade Zone for which NCPRPDC is the Operator and holds the Grant of Authority has begun to be developed. Users there are currently storing product in the FTZ and at least two additional clients looking to do the same thing. The Air Commerce Park that is adjacent to the airport is also undergoing some changes as well. Utilities are being engineered and a new access road through the Park is in process that will connect the new access road from Interstate 80 to the Airport.

We believe that with all of this economic development activity coupled with the Airport Authority’s efforts and those of Mesa Air Group, it is just a matter of time until the Airport and Mesa Air Group begin to experience increased traffic and will be able to generate enough revenue to enable them to become self-sufficient and not require subsidies. In the meantime however, it is very important to maintain what we have been able to build to date and try to expand upon that. So it is crucial to the effort to fund Mesa’s option number 2 for (4) flights a day to Pittsburgh. We urge you to give great consideration to the above-mentioned option as that assures enough flights to accommodate the greatest amount of flights out of the Pittsburgh International Airport.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposal and we look forward to positive events to begin happening both at the Airport and FTZ.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Howard Glessner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Howard Glessner
Deputy Director

Cc: Clearfield – Jefferson Counties Regional Airport Authority