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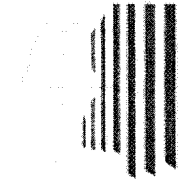
OST 2000-7182-1048

Advocacy

Research

Resources

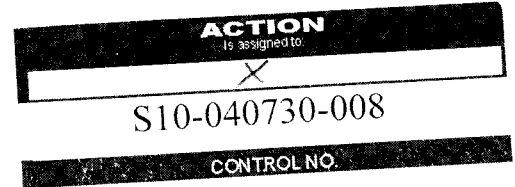
Leadership



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July 29, 2004



The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Comair DCA-Jackson, Mississippi Application
Docket OST-00-7182

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I am writing in support of Comair's application to provide nonstop service between Jackson and Washington's Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA). Having immediate access to the heart of the nation's capital is critical to Jackson and the many businesses located here. Earlier this year, Comair applied for DCA-Jackson service, and, were it not for the lack of slots made available to the carrier, Jackson would already be receiving this important new service.

Jackson deserves top priority consideration. Jackson needs and can readily support nonstop service directly to Ronald Reagan National. The availability of nonstop flights to DCA will be a major improvement over connecting service, both in terms of time and convenience. There are 21 Fortune 500 companies located in the Jackson area. 32 manufacturing firms have their headquarters here, and 17 international corporations have built facilities in the Jackson region. Jackson's leading industries include technology, telecommunications and agribusiness. Jackson also has a significant healthcare industry, with eleven hospitals, including the acclaimed University of Mississippi Medical Center.

Despite the Jackson's many interests with natural connections to Washington, D.C. and the federal government, Jackson is limited to connecting service only to Reagan. There is direct non-stop service to BWI via another carrier, however, direct service to Reagan would enhance our position for economic development in Mississippi's capitol region, which is very important to our state. The DOT should use this opportunity to select Comair's proposal that will be a major benefit to the Jackson community. I urge you to approve this request as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Blake A. Wilson