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DOCKETS

**AUGUSTA STATE AIRPORT**

2004 SEP 30 P 14:24

Dkts. 8012 and  
2784

September 30, 2004

Mr. Dennis J. DeVaney  
Chief, Essential Air Service Division, X-53  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
U.S. Department of Transportation

OST-00-8012-35

RE: Docket OST-1997-2784, Essential Air Service at Augusta/Waterville, Maine

175

Dear Sir:

The Mayor and Council of the City of Augusta, the Augusta City Manager and the Augusta State Airport offer the following comments on the proposals of Colgan Air and Air Midwest to provide essential air service at Augusta/Waterville, Bar Harbor and Rockland.

Colgan Air has operated this service for approximately ten years during which time they have proven to be reliable, convenient and competitive. While having their corporate offices in Manassas, Virginia, Colgan Air has been a very welcome corporate citizen of the City of Augusta. Indeed, the company has been the recipient of the Kennebec Valley Chamber of Commerce prestigious President's Award.

The service proposal offered by Colgan Air is the same as or an improvement over the service pattern they currently operate, a service pattern which adequately meets the demands of the traveling public to and from Augusta.

The proposal offered by Air Midwest provides no compelling reason which would warrant our support. Their proposed flight pattern is no improvement over what we currently have. They propose to operate the service as a USAirways code-share partner, again a service feature which we already have. Air Midwest also proposes to operate this service with Beechcraft B1900 aircraft, which is the same aircraft type operated by Colgan Air. And, Air Midwest requires nearly a quarter of a million dollars more in EAS subsidy than that required by Colgan Air to operate the service.

For these reasons, the City of Augusta fully supports the proposal of Colgan Air and urges that Colgan Air be awarded the contract.

With best regards,

J. Robert McGee  
Airport Manager