

308255

OST 96-1899-34



2575 Melville Road
Prescott, Arizona 86301
Tel: (928) 771-8900
Fax: (928) 771-8901
www.exsil.com

December 2, 2004

Mr. Dennis DeVany
US DOT
Office of Aviation Analysis, X-50
Room 6417B
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590-001

Re: Essential Air Service Award:
Public Comment / Service at Prescott Arizona

2004 DEC 15 P 3:19
SECRET
NOTIFICATION

Dear Mr. DeVany:

As a business owner in Prescott, I believe it is important to award the next Essential Air Service Contract to Mesa Airlines, an airline that has provided service to Prescott since 1989.

Since September 11, 2001, it has become increasingly difficult and time consuming to drive to Phoenix and board a scheduled flight. The growth of Phoenix has added to the drive time and new security measures impose lengthy delays inside the terminal. The current relationship between Mesa Airlines and America West, in providing air service to Phoenix and beyond from Terminal 4, has had a positive effect on passenger growth. This combined with having local TSA security makes flying from Prescott an easy and cost effective experience.

This convenience is vital to us as we conduct business in the tri-city area. As you know, time is money and the current arrangement with Mesa Airlines certainly works well. The current convenience of Mesa Airlines has resulted in an increase in passengers - from 400 per month to 700 per month. These passengers usually buy connecting fare tickets to an America West destination. It is imperative that service through Mesa Airlines be retained in order to continue service to a growing number of passengers who need access to America West and Terminal 4 in Phoenix.

Our region would also be very interested in service to Las Vegas as both a connecting hub and a destination. Las Vegas is becoming an excellent alternative to Phoenix for connecting flights. A Las Vegas air destination would also save a 4-hour drive for many of the hundreds of people in our region who visit Las Vegas routinely as a resort destination.

Please award the next Essential Air Service Contract to Mesa Airlines (d/b/a Air Midwest) and help us maintain and develop a viable air service alternative for our region.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Winters

JW/lt