

**C\VERA****Market-Based Education and Training****Clarion\Venango Educational Resources Alliance**

January 24, 2005

Mr. Dennis J. DeVany  
 Chief, Essential Air Service Division  
 Office of Aviation Analysis  
 X-53, Room 6401  
 Dept. of Transportation  
 400 Seventh St. S.W.  
 Washington, D.C. 20590

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Dear Mr. DeVany;

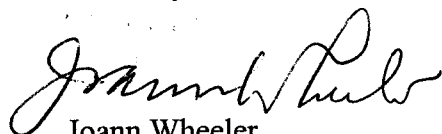
This letter is to express my unconditional support for renewal of the Essential Air Service subsidy for the Venango Regional Airport in Franklin, PA. Our region is on the verge of an economic recovery from the loss of several key businesses over the past ten years. Commercial Air Service is absolutely essential to the success of the growth we envision for the area.

Our air service provider has worked hard to provide an improved schedule and dependability, even in the face of serious problems with their partner, USAIRWAYS. The airline's ability to improve the Franklin flight schedule in October of 2004 resulted in strong passenger numbers for the Fourth quarter of 2004; planned adjustments this coming April will, we anticipate, continue that trend. It is a great advantage to have local air service available, and that service has often spared me a two- to three-hour drive to Cleveland or Pittsburgh.

Our goal is for Venango Regional Airport to become a "demand-based" travel market, that is, independent of subsidies. We know that strong demand will result in increased supply and we are focused on new and revitalized businesses in our area that will produce the needed results. However, we rural Pennsylvanians need more time to reinvent ourselves.

Thank you for your work on the Essential Air Service Program. This program makes economic development in rural areas such as ours possible.

Sincerely,



Joann Wheeler  
 Executive Director  
 C\VERA – Market-based Education and Training  
 255 Elm Street, Suite 1  
 Oil City, PA 16301