

**Franklin
Industries**WILLIAM T. LIDDLE
Chief Operating Officer

OST-1997-2523-26

January 12, 2005

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

2005 FEB -1 P 3:16

Mr. Dennis DeVany
Chief, Essential Air Service &
Domestic Analysis
Department of Transportation, Room 640
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. DeVany:

Franklin Industries is a steel manufacturing plant that has been active in Franklin for 103 years. We employ 175 people and provide year-round jobs.

I attended a meeting in Franklin this week where representatives for MESA Air and the Airport Manager described the need for renewal of the Essential Air Service Subsidy for the Venango Regional Airport. The renewal of the subsidy is absolutely critical for the business community in the Oil City and Franklin area since it is our only link with the Pittsburgh International Airport to fly to points throughout the United States.

In addition, I would like to see a much more aggressive marketing campaign enacted on behalf of the airport, since I believe there is a pool of people within 40 or 50 miles of Franklin who are not even aware of the airport and its problem-free facilities. Will your department consider funding such a marketing campaign? I think such a campaign will result in the removal of the need of the subsidy if professionally and aggressively conducted for a two or three year period.

Please feel free to discuss this letter with me.

Sincerely,



William T. Liddle

WTL/ljd
cc: Congressman John Peterson