


 DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
 BOOKETS

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OST-1997-2523-43

Mr. Dennis J. De Vany
 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

Dear Mr. De Vany;

I'm writing you to express support for renewal of the Essential Air Service subsidy for Venango Regional Airport in Franklin, PA. Commercial Air Service is vital to our region's economic re-development as we are on the cusp of a recovery from the loss of several key businesses over the past ten years as companies were bought, merged, or closed. We are serious about our recovery and the absolute necessity of Commercial Air Service as a linchpin toward our future success. We have an air service provider who has worked hard to provide an improved schedule and dependability even in the face of serious problems with their code share partner, USAIRWAYS. The airline's ability to improve the Franklin flight schedule this past October resulted in strong enplanement numbers for the Fourth quarter of 2004 and further suggested adjustments this coming April will continue to drive that trend. Our goal is to become a "demand - based" travel market and work ourselves off of subsidized air service. We know that strong demand will result in increased supply and we are focused on new and revitalized businesses in our area that will help produce the needed results. RURAL AMERICA IS NOT DEAD! We need more time to regenerate and reinvent ourselves.

We thank you for your work on the Essential Air Service Program as it benefits many areas such as our own.

Sincerely,

Joyce A. Woodard
 Broker of Record