Comments Docket OST-2004-19916-11

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April 7, 2005

Dennis J. DeVany, Chief
Essential Air Service Division
Office of Aviation Analysis
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW., Room 6401
Washington, DC- 20590

Re: Order No. 2004-12-23

Dear Mr. DeVany:

Thank you for your letter dated March 14, 2005 requesting final community comments on order 2004-12-23.The City of Visalia appreciates the opportunity to comment on the responses to the order.

Based on the benefits to the community of having non-stop service to Las Vegas, the Airport Committee unanimously supported the Scenic proposal. City Council Members, at their meeting of April 4, 2005, discussed the process and adopted a motion "approving the Scenic Airlines proposal for Essential Air Service to Visalia" and authorized the Mayor to sign a letter of support to the Department of Transportation.

Additionally, the City Council approved assigning up to $250,000 ($200,000 federal grant funds as well as the community's contribution of $50,000) in Small Community Air Service Development (SCASDP) funding to the carrier in the first year. This funding would be paid to the carrier on a per flight basis and calculated based on a base number of passengers. Under an agreement with the carrier, if passenger levels are above the "base" figure, no subsidy will be payable to the carrier. A copy of the grant agreement between Scenic Airlines and the City of Visalia will be provided to Terri Bingham in accordance with the grant provisions.

The City of Visalia appreciates the Essential Air Service program and the opportunity it offers the community to continue to have air service. Providing air service is an important aspect of our economic development efforts, and is also key to our long-term alternative transportation and air quality objectives.

Again, thank you for providing us with an opportunity to comment on the proposals.

Respectfully,

Bob Link

Bob Link
Mayor

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