

Limitation.—The Secretary may not require air carriers to participate in the pilot program under this section for more than 10 communities receiving service under subchapter II of Chapter 417 of title 49, United States Code.”

Mesa Airlines (operated by Air Midwest) currently serves our community with subsidized Essential Air Service to the Dallas/Ft. Worth Airport. Mesa operates these flights without benefit of any codeshare arrangement. We have been pleased with the level of service and performance that Mesa has provided, however, the lack of a codeshare agreement at a major hub, and the resulting higher point to point fares to destination has not enabled our community to maximize our passenger potential. By far the major reason people cite for not using our local service is the increased cost due to a lack of codeshare agreements. We are know that Mesa, realizing the advantages of such, has attempted to negotiate codeshare agreements with major airlines but without success. Both Mesa and El Dorado feel, however, that our community would experience a dramatic increase in traffic if we are permitted to participate in the Codeshare Pilot Program that is set forth by the Vision 100 legislation.

The Codeshare Pilot Program would prove to be quite beneficial for El Dorado, permitting easier access to the National Transportation System, and allowing Mesa and the public to benefit from multiple codesharing relationships with major airlines at Dallas/Ft. Worth. The Codeshare Pilot Program can and should increase the number of passengers utilizing the current air service, and thereby help make our air service self supporting and reducing our reliance on the Essential Air Service program.

Respectively Submitted: June 1, 2005



Bobby Beard
Mayor
City of El Dorado, Arkansas