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**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

OST-2003-15483-27

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
400 Seventh St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

2006 FEB -9 A 11: 06

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The Honorable Pat Roberts  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510-1605

Dear Senator Roberts:

Thank you for your letter of February 6 supporting the re-selection of Air Midwest (a wholly-owned subsidiary of Mesa Air Group, Inc.) to provide increased essential air service (EAS) at Manhattan for the two-year period beginning July 1, 2006.

As you may know, we received seven service options from three carriers, including Air Midwest, to provide subsidized EAS at Manhattan and/or Salina, the other Kansas community involved in this case. Since this matter is currently under review by the Department, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of those options. I assure you, however, that the Department will fully and fairly consider each option in light of the statutory criteria we are directed to follow. These statutory criteria include: giving substantial weight to the views of the community's elected officials; each carrier's marketing, code-share, and interline relationships with larger carriers at hub airports; and the relative subsidy requirements of each option or combination of options. Finally, I also assure you that your office will be notified when the selection order is made public.

As is our normal practice, I am placing copies of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2003-15483 for Manhattan as a contact outside the record of this proceeding.

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. DeVany

Chief, Essential Air Service Division  
Office of Aviation Analysis