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04 August 2006

Mr. Dennis DeVany, Chief
EAS & Domestic Analysis Division, X-53
Office of Aviation Analysis, Room 6401
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: DOT 2006-6-10, Docket OST-1998-3321 - 71
Support for Air Carrier Operations at Castle Airport (KMER)

Dear Mr. DeVany:

Our company wishes to take this opportunity to express our support for passenger airline service at Castle Airport. Castle is an excellent airport and an ideal location for passenger service in a rapidly growing area. Castle is convenient for traveler's departures and arrivals. Castle's 11,800 foot runway, extensive aircraft ramp area and other infrastructure makes it very practicable and safe for passenger service.

Castle's location, essentially in the center of Merced County makes it a natural choice for the business and pleasure traveler. Castle is not encroached by housing and has no noise or hours of operations restrictions. It is a natural location for Essential Air Service (EAS) now and expanded services to this community in the future.

Castle Airport is uniquely equipped in California's Central Valley to accommodate growth of passenger service requiring larger aircraft that would fly to business centers in the West Coast and beyond.

Very truly yours

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S. P. Thurston", is written over a horizontal line.

Stanley P. Thurston
President
Castle Knights Aviation, Inc. dba
Gemini Flight Support

SPT:hf