



ANDRES Z. SILVA, MAYOR

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January 11, 2007

Mr. Dennis J. DeVany, Chief  
Essential Air Service Division, X-53, Room 6401  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
United States Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

OST-1996-1903-41

Dear Mr. DeVany:

As you are aware, the Essential Air Service carrier selection for Clovis and Silver City New Mexico is rapidly approaching. We are pleased that program funding and eligibility criteria are sufficient to maintain current service levels to these rural locations. It seems apparent, however, that ongoing congressional efforts to reduce funding and downsize the EAS Program will eventually have a significant impact here.

Maintaining safe, affordable and convenient links to the national air transportation system is important to our commerce, culture and quality of life. We believe consideration should be given to EAS alternatives with the potential to reduce or eliminate our dependence on federal subsidies, enhance commerce and increase the variety and scope of service available.

Some EAS communities have recently eliminated the need for subsidies altogether. Pacific Wings Airlines has successfully introduced and used efficient new aircraft to scale capacity to demand in smaller Hawaii markets; steadily reducing dependence on federal funding over the past five years.

We have discussed with Pacific Wings the possibility of using this service delivery model in Deming, New Mexico. The airline has identified the C-208 as the aircraft that would enable it to cost-effectively provide sustainable and reliable scheduled air service to our communities at current and estimated passenger loads.

As the articles indicate, public reaction to the C-208 in Hawaii has been favorable. We believe its roomy cabin, improved handicapped access and advanced safety technology, including terrain and collision avoidance systems; ground proximity warning indicators; satellite navigation and weather radar, would also be well received in Deming and other communities.

It appears that Pacific Wings has the potential to serve the public interest, convenience and necessity by using the C-208 to promote economical and sustainable intrastate air service in New Mexico and we support the airline in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Andres Z. Silva.

Andres Z. Silva  
Mayor