



February 8, 2007

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: AirTran Airways
OST-200-7182 - 1336

Dear Secretary Peters,

In the ten years since AirTran Airways introduced their brand of customer-oriented, high quality, low fare service to the Central Illinois market our passenger traffic has grown more than 300 percent. During this same period, even with the most conservative of estimates, AirTran has saved travelers throughout all of Central Illinois more than \$40 million dollars in travel costs.

Clearly, access to quality, affordable air service is one of the key components to a community's growth and success – and the same is true for Central Illinois. As the corporate home to three FORTUNE 50 corporations, State Farm Insurance, Archer Daniels Midland and Caterpillar, along with a half dozen colleges/universities, our region depends on AirTran for access to the major business destinations. Destinations like Washington D.C. Year after year, throughout our region the Washington metropolitan area consistently ranks as one of the area top destinations.

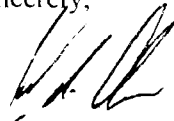
We have become aware that this past January 29, 2007, AirTran Airways, Inc. applied to the Department of Transportation for two (2) slot exemptions to add one daily nonstop, low fare, roundtrip between Atlanta and Washington – DCA in accordance with the provisions of Vision 100 – Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act, P.L. 108-176. In response, the Bloomington Normal Airport Authority enthusiastically supports this request. With three daily flights from our facility to Atlanta, permitting AirTran to initiate this new service would not only immediately provide Central Illinois customers with more options when traveling to this major destination, it would also help ensure that prices in this market would become more competitive – without having to sacrifice quality customer service.

Paul Harmon, Chairman Carl G. Olson, Executive Director Barbara Allsup Steven Wannemacher Earl Kingman J. Jay Allen

3201 CIRA Drive • Suite 200 • Bloomington, IL 61704 • 309-663-7384 • Fax 309-663-2430 • www.cira.com

On behalf of all of Central Illinois we ask that you please give your strongest consideration to the awarding of two (2) within perimeter DCA slots to AirTran Airways in line with it's request to add service between Atlanta and Ronald Reagan Washington national Airport.

Sincerely,



Carl G. Olson
Executive Director