

# LANCASTER COUNTY

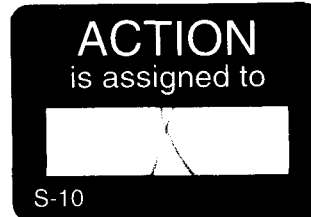
## OFFICE OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

479927  
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DICK SHELLENBERGER, Chairman DOCKETS  
SHARRON V. NELSON  
MOLLY S. HENDERSON

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July 17, 2007

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MARK ESTERBROOK  
County Administrator  
ANDREA M. McCUE  
Chief Clerk

The Honorable Mary E. Peters, Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street S.W.  
Washington, District of Columbia 20590

Dear Secretary Peters:

OST-2002-11450-72

DONALD E. LEFEVER, ESQUIRE  
County Solicitor

We are writing on behalf of the Lancaster Airport Authority's Essential Air Service status. Lancaster Airport (LNS) has been designated as an EAS city since the airline deregulation act of 1978. However, due to the communities' time, effort and education to sustaining subsidy-free air service; they never required a subsidy under this program until after the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

The County Commissioners are dedicated to having Lancaster County remain an economic leader in Pennsylvania. With over 490,000 residents, more than 250,000 employed at more than 11,000 companies, we are the second-fastest growing county in Pennsylvania and have enjoyed one of the lowest unemployment rates in the state and the United States for more than ten years. We enjoyed subsidy-free airline service for more than 53 years prior to 9/11/01; this service has greatly contributed to its overall economic success.

Our office and the DOT have received countless letters from businesses, universities and health care agencies that urge us to do what we can to keep airline service. It provides more than 600 jobs and contributes more than \$38 million annually to our local economy. You can view some of these letters at DOT Docket No. 11450.

Currently, the carrier serving LNS has filed an intent to vacate the market, and on May 14, 2007, the DOT issued a new RFP under Docket No. OST-2002-11450 for a replacement.

However, this order states that the new carrier would only receive funding for two months. It is highly unlikely that anyone will bid for just two months of service. **Therefore, we respectfully request your consideration of keeping LNS eligible for EAS until the reauthorization process is complete.** Thank you for your consideration of this very important matter.

We are very proud of our special County. We invite you to visit us to see first hand our community and how commercial airline service impacts us directly.

Sincerely,

Dick Shellenberger, Chairman

Molly S. Henderson

Sharron V. Nelson

Board of Commissioners of  
Lancaster County, Pennsylvania

DS/MSH/SVN:jwl

cc: Marvin Miller  
U. S. Congressman Joseph R. Pitts

