



**Venango County**  
**Venango Regional Airport**  
**Chess Lamberton Field**

**Commissioners**

Timothy S. Brooks  
 Troy A. Wood  
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 Airport Manager  
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1560 Airport Road Franklin, PA 16323 814/432-5333 Fax 814/432-2684

3/11/08

Mr. Dennis J. DeVany  
 Chief, Essential Air Service Division, X-53  
 Office of Aviation Analysis  
 United States Department of Transportation  
 1200 New Jersey Ave, S.E.  
 Washington, D.C. 20590

2008 MAR 12 P 12:10

 DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
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Dear Mr. De Vany,

I've viewed the proposal from Gulfstream Airlines to provide air service under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program to the Franklin/Oil City area. They plan to operate as Continental Express through the Cleveland Hopkins International Airport hub. This would be the most ideal scenario we could hope for here in the Oil region as we seek to rebuild our air travel market with meaningful, reliable service through a large and growing hub airport such as CLE. The Venango Regional Airport and the County of Venango will wholeheartedly support this venture. Our goal is to outgrow the EAS subsidy. This proposal of Gulfstream's, if approved by your organization, will provide us the means to do so. You will be receiving support correspondence from many in our community in the coming days. We have barely survived a long ten (10) month period since our air carrier gave notice to the Department of Transportation that they intended to withdraw from the subsidized air service to several locations including Franklin/Oil City. We have suffered from that as well as the severe downsizing of our connecting hub airport with inordinately high "add on" air fares to our most popular destinations. I would like to commend the employees and crews of our Air Carrier on their efforts to continue to provide service during this time. I sincerely thank you and your associates in the Department of Transportation for holding the carrier in until a replacement could begin service. I believe you understand fully the importance of the EAS program to the economy of Rural America. I can attest to that importance here in our Oil Region. Thank you for your work during this process and as we move it forward.

The County of Venango and the Venango Regional Airport enthusiastically endorse and support Gulfstream International Airline's proposal to provide air carrier service to Franklin / Oil City through the Essential Air Service subsidy program. We understand fully that the goal of the EAS program is to provide a "safety net" level of service to connect the community with the Nation's air transport system. Our region is rebounding from economic losses suffered over the past decade and viable commercial air service is a critical infrastructure component of our recovery.

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Gulfstream's proposal is comprehensive and it appears they are willing to commit the equipment necessary to provide timely, dependable service within the budgetary confines of the subsidy rate. This is an exciting prospect as we work with the new carrier to provide meaningful air service to the community.

We appreciate your efforts and those of your department on behalf of Franklin / Oil City, Venango County and the entire Oil Heritage Region served by Venango Regional Airport, and recognize the additional workload that resulted from the present carrier's notification to discontinue service. Thank you for issuing the order prohibiting that discontinuation and working through the bidding process for replacement service.

Respectfully submitted,



Otho C. Bell