



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

2008 MAY -9 A 11:47

May 9, 2008

The Honorable Christopher S. Bond
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bond:

Thank you for your letter of April 25, regarding the carrier selection case for air service at Columbia, Missouri, under the Essential Air Service (EAS) program.

As you know, in response to Air Midwest's notice to terminate service at Columbia, as well as eight other communities in Arkansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued Order 2008-2-2, February 1, 2008, to solicit proposals from all interested air carriers to provide EAS at Columbia, for a two-year term. In response to that order, the Department received proposals from Hawaii Island Air d/b/a Island Air (Island Air), Great Lakes Aviation (Great Lakes), and Mesaba Aviation d/b/a Northwest Airlink (Mesaba).

I am happy to inform you that the Department recently issued Order 2008-5-2, selecting Mesaba to provide three weekday round trips (20 per week) from Columbia Regional Airport to Memphis, for a two-year rate term. As you know, the selection of Mesaba was fully supported by the community. For your information, a copy of Order 2008-5-2 is available on the Department's Docket Management website, which is <http://www.regulations.gov>. Entering "2006-23931" into the "search" field provides access to the full record.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket OST-2006-23931 as a contact outside the record of this proceeding.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. If I can provide further information or assistance, please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Dennis J. DeVany

Chief, Essential Air Service Division

CHRISTOPHER S. BOND

MISSOURI

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

SMALL BUSINESS

ENVIRONMENT AND

PUBLIC WORKS

INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2503

April 25, 2008

Dennis DeVaney, Chief
EAS & Domestic Analysis Division
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Department of Transportation
Room W86308
1200 New Jersey, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Essential Air Funding

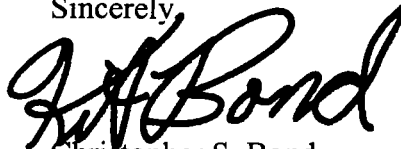
Dear Mr. DeVaney,

It has been brought to my attention that the US Department of Transportation recently received several proposals from three different airlines to provide Essential Air Service to the Columbia Regional Airport.

The Columbia City Council along with the city's Airport Advisory Board have carefully weighed each option and discussed the impact each proposal will have on the Columbia community. In doing so, they have selected a proposal that will best service the surrounding community by providing several daily flights to larger airports on a schedule that will allow for the success of the airline.

Please give the Columbia City Council recommendation full and favorable consideration when reviewing Essential Air Service for the community.

Sincerely,



Christopher S. Bond