



CITY OF OIL CITY
CITY PLAZA • 21 SENECA STREET
OIL CITY, PENNSYLVANIA 16301

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

2008 MAY -6 A 10:19

April 25, 2008

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

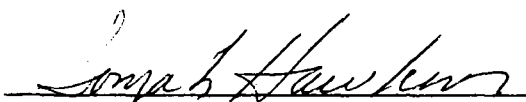
Dear Mr. DeVany,

The City of Oil City understands that Gulfstream International Airlines has submitted a proposal to provide air service to the Franklin/Oil City area under the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program. During the past eleven (11) months, reliable air service through the Venango County Regional Airport has suffered due to the downsizing of the airport's current carrier in anticipation of its leaving the East Coast EAS market.

On behalf of the City of Oil City, I urge you to support Gulfstream International Airlines bid, Option 2. Bid Option 2 is in full accordance with EAS's goal of providing a "safety net" level of air service to connect rural communities to the nation's air transportation system. An affordable, dependable system of air transportation is of critical importance to the economic vitality of the business, tourist, and service industries of our area. Our area is in the midst of efforts to revitalize our economic base and attract new businesses. Viable commercial air service is crucial to this recovery effort. We cannot hope to compete in today's market arena without having this basic transportation infrastructure, which is directly dependent on the EAS subsidy. Gulfstream's initiation of air service to our area, preferably under Option 2, will provide the level of service we need.

We greatly appreciate the efforts of your department on behalf of the Cities of Franklin and Oil City, in addition to the entire Venango County community served by the Venango County Regional Airport. We are grateful for any assistance you can give on this matter.

Sincerely,


Sonja L. Hawkins
Mayor