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**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

OST-98-3982-11

SEP 14 1998

Assistant Secretary

400 Seventh St., NW.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKET SECTION  
SEP 16 PM 12:18

The Honorable John McCain  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McCain:

Thank you for your letter, enclosing correspondence from Mr. Keith Petrie and Ms. Debi Durham, in support of the slot exemption application of Aspen Mountain Air to enable new direct air service between Chicago and Sioux City, Iowa.

As Mr. Petrie and Ms. Durham noted, Aspen Mountain Air's application is one of several pending requests for O'Hare slot exemptions. We will consider the application of Aspen Mountain Express along with other recently-filed requests in the future, at such time as the Department decides to evaluate another round of exemptions.

As these applications are pending before the Department and are contested, I am sure you can understand that the Department's rules preclude me from commenting on their merits. I assure you, however, that we will consider all views in reaching our decision.

I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket OST-98-3982, Docket OST-98-3603, and in the file for contacts outside the record of the case.

Sincerely,

Charles A. Hunnicutt  
Assistant Secretary for Aviation  
and International Affairs