

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 10, 2000

The Honorable Rodney Slater  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 10200  
Washington, D.C. 20590

The Honorable Jane Garvey  
Administrator  
Federal Aviation Administration  
800 Independence Ave., S.W., Room 1010  
Washington, D.C. 20591



Dear Secretary Slater and Administrator Garvey:

We are writing you to urge that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) expeditiously grant a request by Midwest Express Airlines for the allocation of an "off-peak" Washington National Airport slot that was recalled by the FAA from another airline many months ago for lack of use. No other air carrier has requested allocation of this single slot, and Midwest Express' request has been pending since early August (FAA Docket No. 30190).

Starting October 29, Midwest Express will provide a single nonstop round trip between Des Moines and National Airport. As you know, this round trip was made possible by the Department of Transportation's allocation of two slots to Midwest Express in July. Midwest Express wants to support this single nonstop round trip with a direct, same-plane round trip between Des Moines and National Airport via Kansas City. To provide this service and help ensure the long-term success of its sole nonstop round trip between Des Moines and National Airport, however, Midwest Express needs FAA to allocate it this off-peak slot.

Midwest Express has gone to great lengths to lease National Airport slots from other air carriers and has been unsuccessful. Your staff is well aware of Midwest Express' efforts. By the same token, we have worked hard with the Des Moines International Airport to attract Midwest Express. A year ago, only the carrier's commuter affiliate served Des Moines with turboprop service to one city. By the end of this year, Midwest Express will provide nonstop jet service from Des Moines to Milwaukee, Kansas City, Indianapolis, and Washington National as well as provide direct, same plane service to New York's La Guardia Airport. We are very proud that Midwest Express has established a significant presence in Des Moines and is providing Des Moines consumers with its high quality, award-winning service. We obviously want to see this new service succeed over the long-term.

Accordingly, we request the allocation of this slot so that Midwest Express can make direct, same-plane service to National Airport from Des Moines a reality and give Des Moines air

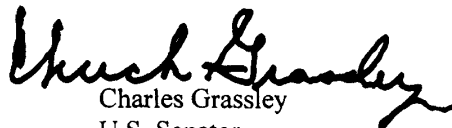
travelers a convenient option if they are unable to take the single nonstop flight in the market. Such an option will help maximize the long-term benefits for air travelers flying between Des Moines and Washington, D.C.—a market that your Department has found to be underserved—and help ensure the long term success of that route.

Thank you for considering our request.

Sincerely,



Tom Harkin  
U.S. Senator



Charles Grassley  
U.S. Senator