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DOCKET SECTION

March 25, 1999

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Mr. Charles A. Hunnicutt
Assistant Secretary of Aviation
and International Affairs
United States Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

OST 99-5475-2

ORIGINAL

Re: Request for Slots – Chicago O’Hare International Airport

Dear Mr. Hunnicutt:

IBP, the world’s largest producer of fresh red meat and by-products, maintains its international headquarters in Siouxland. From this base, our corporate employees fly to our forty United States locations and six international offices. Last year alone, IBP spent over 2 million dollars on commercial airline tickets from this area.

An analysis of the tickets issued to our employees show Chicago was the number two intermediate destination. It was number two primarily because there are no direct, non-stop flights to Chicago. Currently, our employees must first fly to Minneapolis or St. Louis, or drive 90 miles south to fly out of Omaha to get to Chicago, either for business or to connect with other flights.

Because of this, IBP fully endorses Sioux City’s efforts to get slots into Chicago’s O’Hare International airport. This would improve the efficiency of our employees’ travel and would be a major benefit to the Siouxland region.

Thank you for your consideration of Sioux City’s request.

Sincerely,

Donald E. Willoughby
Manager of Government
and Community Affairs