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OST-97-2523-48

Devany, Dennis <OST>

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

From: Joann Wheeler [jwheeler@csonline.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 22, 2005 3:22 PM
To: Devany, Dennis <OST>
Subject: Venango Regional Airport

2005 FEB 22 P 4: 25



airport support
2.doc (29 KB)

Dear Mr. DeVany

Attached please find a letter of support for the Venango Regional Airport. Thank you for your attention and your efforts to date on our behalf.

Sincerely

Joann Wheeler
Executive Director
C\VERA
255 Elm Street
Oil City, PA 16301

Clarion\Venango Educational Resources Alliance

2/22/05

Mr. Dennis J. De Vany
Chief, Essential Air Service Division, X-53
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Dept. of Transportation

Dear Mr. De Vany:

I am writing once again to request your support of the Mesa Air Group dba Air Midwest proposal to provide scheduled air service to Franklin/Oil City under the Essential Air Service subsidy, specifically their plan to renew at the current service level: three roundtrip flights daily, Monday through Friday and three on the weekends, for a total of eighteen weekly roundtrip flights to Pittsburgh.

Venango Regional Airport is connected to a market of 250,000 residents within a thirty mile radius. The airport is a vital economic development tool used to promote business in our region. Business leaders have written and otherwise expressed their support for continued scheduled air service at a minimum of three daily flights from Venango Regional Airport. They recognize the importance of this level of service in promoting our economy.

Venango County is experiencing the beginning of a positive trend in business development thanks to our legislators and community leaders. County-owned property on a site east of the Rte. 8 airport frontage, for example, has been designated a Keystone Opportunity Zone (ten years property tax free) and a Foreign Trade Zone. Our lead economic development entity, the Oil Region Alliance for Business, Industry and Tourism, is aggressively marketing the Airport Business Park along with a nearby multi-tenant industrial site. This is evidence of a recovering business climate in the Franklin/Oil City area. Our rural area must be allowed to compete with the larger urban areas on a level playing field. Viable commercial air service helps level that playing field and is necessary for us to reinvent and sustain our economic growth.

We ask that you recommend this proposal to the Deputy Secretary, and we thank you for your work to date on the Essential Air Service program on behalf of Franklin/Oil City.

Best Regards,

Joann Wheeler
Executive Director