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NO. 239

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OST-1997-2515-13

A. T. Still University



of Health Sciences

Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine
School of Health Management

Arizona School of Health Sciences
Arizona School of Dentistry & Oral Health

Office of the President

January 28, 2005

The Honorable Norman Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Kirksville, Missouri - Essential Air Service
Docket OST-1997-2515

Dear Mr. Mineta:

I am writing today to express our institution's support for continuing the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program at Kirksville Regional Airport. Scheduled commercial air carrier service is critical to the survival of our institution.

A.T. Still University is the founding school of osteopathic medicine and is based in Kirksville. Our medical students are on campus for their first two years of study, and then go out for two years of clinical rotations. While some students stay in Missouri for these final two years, many go to our regional training sites in Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Colorado, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Utah, and Arizona. We have students, faculty, and staff at each of these sites who fly into Kirksville for testing, meetings, and special University events. We also have faculty who fly to cities throughout the United States to attend conferences and meetings. Further, we interview over 500 medical school applicants each year who want a convenient and quick way to come to Kirksville.

A.T. Still University also has a campus in Mesa, Arizona. This campus houses our dental and allied health schools. Again, the ability to easily transport the faculty and staff between these two campuses is highly important. In addition, there are parents and alumni as well as our Board of Trustees coming into Kirksville for graduation and other special activities who rely on this direct air service.

Urge your strong consideration for continuing the EAS program at Kirksville Regional Airport. It is vital to the continued growth and prosperity of our university and community.

Sincerely,

James J. McGovern, Ph.D.
President