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DOCKETS  
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March 24, 2005

Dennis Devaney  
EAS & Domestic Analysis Division, X53  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
Room 6401  
Department of Transportation  
400 7<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Mr. Devaney:

The City of Kirksville is very appreciative of the support that we have been received from Essential Air Service, and thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposals. As you know, our ability to provide viable air service to and from our region is our prime concern, as should be all participants of the EAS program. We trust that EAS and the Domestic Analysis Division will make your recommendations based upon that goal.

With that, the Kirksville community has evaluated those proposals that included our community. We also invited representatives from both Regions Air and MESA Airlines to attend an open meeting to make formal presentations and answers questions regarding their proposals and services. Since, it is our understanding that EAS may award the contract for all seven cities as a package, we felt it necessary to review as much feedback and comments that we could garner from the other communities. Taking all of this into consideration and the goal that we have established, it is our request that you strongly consider MESA Airlines for EAS service to Kirksville. We recommend this for the following reasons.

One – Demonstrated Service Reliability – Our community has experienced cancellations in part due to a shortage of trained pilots. Since Kirksville was the smaller market, our flights were the first to be cancelled. The cancellations, along with others that have occurred, have not done well to foster an assurance to waiting passengers that they will make their destinations. MESA Air, due to its size and the type of aircraft used, has greater opportunities for those pilots that they train, thus increasing their ability to retain pilots, and in turn meeting flight requirements. With option 21, MESA is offering Kirksville three roundtrips to Chicago, which is the main destination for our travelers to and from our region.

Two – Marketing – Our community was devastated last year, when Regions Air experienced the airplane crash outside of our airport. Our community, volunteers and supporters worked very hard to insure needs were met during this time. However, there have been no efforts made by Regions Air to assure our market area that they have safe, reliable service from Kirksville. In

fact, the cancellations without notification have only helped to foster questions and concerns of their ability to perform safely. Even before this incident, there had been limited external marketing used to bolster ticket sales. MESA Air has included in their proposal funding to market the service.

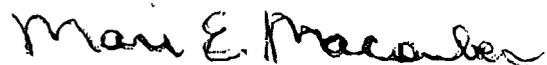
Three – Community Views – Again, our community is somewhat different than the other EAS communities, we are within a half-days drive to four larger communities with reliable air service – St. Louis, Kansas City and Des Moines, Iowa. The community needs to know that the service is going to arrive. Others within our region need to know that the service is available.

The Kirksville community has made a significant investment in our airport by hiring an Airport Manager, who began his duties at the beginning of March. We have also completed the construction of an 80 x 80 free span building that is intended for use by the commercial carrier. We have been working very closely with the FAA to insure compliance with the Part 139 compliance to continue our EAS service.

We ask that you consider the proposals as they affect each community, and that for Kirksville, you consider MESA Air as the provider.

Thank you again for allowing our input into this most important process, we look forward to hearing the results of your review.

Sincerely,



Mari E. Macomber  
City Manager