

CORRESPONDENCE



JUDY MARKOWITZ
MAYOR

CITY OF BLOOMINGTON

23897
CA

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 JUN 12 AM 11:53
DOCKET SECTION

May 28, 1997

OST-97-2557-14

Mr. Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Slater,

This letter is to inform you that the City of Bloomington is very supportive of AirTran Airways application to provide service between our Central Illinois Regional Airport and New York's LaGuardia Airport.

Bloomington/Normal is one of the fastest growing communities in the United States and needs this service for our corporate and community travelers.

I strongly urge you to grant AirTran Airways the slots between Central Illinois Regional Airport and New York's LaGuardia Airport.

Sincerely,

Judy Markowitz
Mayor

16ppp

The Eureka Company

1201 E. Bell St.
Bloomington, IL 61701-6902

May 28, 1997

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 JUN 12 AM 11:53
DOCKET SECTION

Mr. Rodney Slater
U. S. Secretary of Transportation
U. S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20590

Dear Mr. Slater:

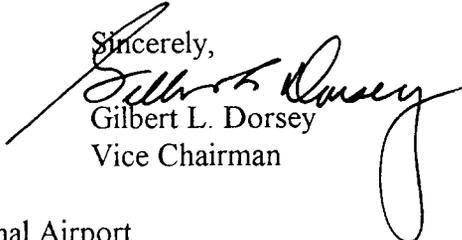
I am writing to you to give my encouragement for a decision in favor of AirTran Airways application with the Department of Transportation allowing two slots for service between LaGuardia (N.Y.) and the Central Illinois Regional Airport (Bloomington-Normal).

The Eureka Company maintains its headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois. We have found this area to be an ideal place for headquarters companies. State Farm, Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing, Bridgestone-Firestone Off Road Division, Katherine Beich Candy (Nestle Division), Country Companies and others agree. There are some very basic factors about our community which help its success. Transportation is one of them. This was a rail center many years ago and now, in addition, has three (3) interstate highways intersecting here. We are located within 60 miles of Champaign, Decatur, Springfield and Peoria. The population in that radius is over 800,000 people. The employment here is the best in the state and unemployment is only 2.9%. We have an active Economic Development Council and Chamber of Commerce. Our Visitors and Convention Bureau books many conventions and meetings here as well. A new Exhibition Center opened this year and will attract many. We have a vibrant and unique community.

AirTran began its service here in December. As President of the Chamber of Commerce then, I had the opportunity to meet with some of the people from AirTran. They have sound strategies and are sound business people. They had done the research necessary and had the marketing skills to make the AirTran Orlando/Central Illinois Regional Airport route one of, if not the strongest route in their entire system. It has been supported by all of Central Illinois, as would the New York route.

I strongly encourage your support of this application for two (2) slots between New York and Bloomington. We will use the service.

Sincerely,


Gilbert L. Dorsey
Vice Chairman

GLD/kk

cc: Mr. Michael La Pier, AAE, Central Illinois Regional Airport



Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62784
Telephone 217/782-5597

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 JUN 12 AM 11:53
DDOT/LET SECTION

May 30, 1997

Mr. Rodney Slater, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

I am writing in support of an application filed by AirTran Airways for slots at New York's LaGuardia Airport to enable new service from the Central Illinois Airport in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois and from the Quad-City Airport in Moline, Illinois. AirTran, a new air carrier, has determined that there is a substantial demand for direct air service from both of these areas to New York City. A recently completed study by the Illinois Department of Transportation supports these findings.

Slot access to LaGuardia from both of these Illinois cities is important because it will enable direct service from two areas that are currently underserved. The direct access will provide another option to people who currently suffer the inconvenience and added cost of changing aircraft and airlines since there is no direct service available in these two areas. This access will also provide improved transportation service to areas of the state that are currently experiencing economic growth.

I appreciate your continued interest in Illinois' transportation system and urge you to approve the AirTran Airways application.

Sincerely,


Kirk Brown
Secretary

AirTran now seeks to offer service from the Central Illinois Regional Airport to New York LaGuardia. Such direct flight service will most assuredly be welcomed by the businesses and citizens of this area. Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing has suppliers in the East and frequently conducts administrative and legal business with affiliated and other businesses in Manhattan. AirTran Airways' proposed service to New York would certainly be utilized in our business, if it were available. Other enterprises in and around Bloomington-Normal would also surely use such service, not only because of their need and the convenience, but also out of familiarity with AirTran through the widely hailed popularity of its flights to Orlando and the known attentiveness of its professional staff to passengers, that we have experienced.

Further, my impression from my understanding of the people of this community, which has always been my home, is that personal travel alone would support such air service. As I have already explained, this is an educated, cultured and affluent society where, if travel were readily and reasonably available to New York for shopping, dining, theater and sightseeing, such air service would be prized and used regularly.

This writing is intended to show our support for AirTran Airway's application for landing and take-off reservations or "slots," as you know them, and in that vein I encourage you to offer those slots to AirTran for their service between Central Illinois Regional Airport and New York LaGuardia Airport. For many of the same reasons that our site selection committee chose Bloomington-Normal as the perfect base for our business, you too, now, have the opportunity to find the success that we have that comes from this community.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary Shultz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "G" and "S".

Gary Shultz

CORRESPONDENCE



GARY SHULTZ
VICE PRESIDENT, GENERAL COUNSEL AND
SECRETARY

May 30, 1997

Mr. Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 JUN 12 AM 11:54
DOCKET SECTION

Dear Mr. Slater,

Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Inc. is an automobile manufacturer with the entire operation of its offices and manufacturing and assembly plant located in Normal Illinois. Our over 4,000 employees proudly produce six popular models of Mitsubishi and Chrysler vehicles that are distributed throughout the U.S. and to many foreign countries.

Ten years ago, Bloomington-Normal was chosen as the site for our business because this central Illinois community was found ideal in every respect: with its highly motivated citizens of strong work ethic, impressive education opportunities from its public school systems and junior colleges to its two acclaimed universities, its sophisticated health care and medical service facilities and professionals, its diverse commerce from every aspect of agricultural business to industry leading insurance, to specialty foods production, to various and numerous manufacturing businesses, to commercial packaging, to electronics industries, to all building construction trades, and to its full complement of retail merchandising and service providers. Culturally, Bloomington-Normal's citizens support the arts in many forms with frequent visits, lectures, concerts and other programs from entertainers of every field of talent from all over the world, as well as our own symphony. The result of all this is a remarkable and healthy community prospering from its own ingenuity and concerted effort. Then add to all this, the transportation system of converging interstate and state highways, the intersecting railways, and foremost, our regional airport that has kept pace with the ever growing needs of these cities. Bloomington-Normal is centrally located between Chicago, St. Louis and Indianapolis, making its resources and opportunities easily accessible to the entire population of central Illinois. It is no wonder Mitsubishi was so attracted to invest in this community for its only automobile plant in America.

Right from the beginning of its service here, AirTran Airways has provided a tremendous benefit to Bloomington-Normal and all of central Illinois with its daily flights to and from Orlando. Future expansion of AirTran Airway's service has been encouraged and in response,

100 N. MITSUBISHI MOTORWAY
NORMAL, IL 61761
(309) 888-8211
TELEFAX: (309) 888-8154

CORRESPONDENCE



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 JUN 12 AM 11:54
DOCKET SECTION

May 28, 1997

Mr. Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

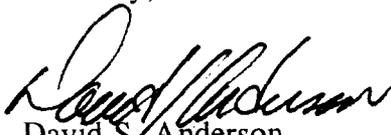
The Board of Directors and the Administration of the Central Illinois Regional Airport at Bloomington-Normal have been expending a considerable amount of effort and funds to attract additional airline transportation opportunities to the residents and businesses of the Bloomington-Normal community.

We are aware that AirTran Airways has filed an application with the Department of Transportation for slots that would allow them to operate twice daily service between the Central Illinois Regional Airport and New York's LaGuardia Airport.

AirTran Airways and Frontier Airlines has provided recent new service to the Central Illinois Regional Airport at Bloomington-Normal. It is my understanding that both airlines have exceeded their expectations as far as the number of passengers they are servicing. All indications are these numbers will continue to rise in the future because of the centralized location of Bloomington-Normal. We are at the intersection of three interstates, being I-39, I-74 and I-55 and serve as a regional shopping area for a radius of approximately 100 miles.

We strongly support the request from the Central Illinois Regional Airport and AirTran Airways for additional slots at New York's LaGuardia Airport. We are confident that there are sufficient riders in the central Illinois area that would take advantage of this twice daily service to New York City. Many of our businesses will take advantage of this new service. We thank you in advance for your support of these requested slots.

Sincerely,



David S. Anderson
City Manager

DSA/saf

Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development of the Bloomington-Normal Area

June 2, 1997

Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary
Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, S. W.
Washington, D. C. 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
91 JUN 12 AM 11:54
DOCKET SECTION

Dear Secretary Slater:

As Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce and Economic Development of the Bloomington-Normal Area, I **strongly support** AirTran Airways' application for service between the Central Illinois Regional Airport (Bloomington, IL) and New York's LaGuardia Airport.

AirTran Airway's impact on our community has been very positive. Boardings have greatly exceeded initial expectations and business/leisure travelers have been extremely pleased with schedules and reliability.

LaGuardia service, I believe, would be another successful destination. Travelers can access our airport and AirTran Airways service to LaGuardia through three interstate highways. Travel time from five larger cities is an hour or less, thus providing a strong base of support for east coast service. In addition, major manufacturing and service firms would find LaGuardia/AirTran service very convenient and cost effective. I am part of a regional business delegation that makes an annual trip to New York City. I know that our delegation would choose AirTran Airways and that many other firms with business through LaGuardia would do the same.

The Bloomington-Normal community has a long record of economic growth. Unemployment is among the lowest of Illinois' 102 counties and the population of the communities has posted outstanding increases. AirTran service to LaGuardia would be another transportation asset to add to the area's strong business base.

Bloomington-Normal Trades & Labor Assembly
City of Bloomington
County of McLean
Livingston-McLean Counties Building Trades Council
McLean County Chamber of Commerce
McLean County Mayor's Association
Town of Normal
United Private Industry Council

Our business and leisure travelers look forward to AirTran Airways' successful application for LaGuardia service and your support for their request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dave Hawkinson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dave Hawkinson
Executive Director

CORRESPONDENCE
ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

*Office of the
Vice President for
Business and Finance*



302 Hovey Hall
Campus Box 1100
Normal, IL 61790-1100
Telephone: (309) 438-2143
Facsimile: (309) 438-2768

June 2, 1997

The Honorable Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

I am writing on behalf of Illinois State University to express our strong support for the application of AirTran Airway's service between the Central Illinois Regional Airport and New York's La Guardia Airport.

Illinois State University was founded in 1857 as the first public institution of higher education in the state. The documents establishing Illinois State as a teacher education institution were drafted by Abraham Lincoln. The University enrolls 19,409 students from 41 states and 62 countries. Our faculty is dedicated to the provision of superior teaching and includes numerous scholars who are recognized at national and international levels. ISU has an annual travel budget of approximately \$1 million. All of our business travel is arranged through one designated on-site travel agency which affords us the best opportunity to control costs and to communicate with our travelers regarding travel options and opportunities.

Many of our staff, faculty, and students rely on our campus travel agency to arrange personal as well as business travel. Agency representatives have informed us that the addition of AirTran to our local airport has been extremely well received by our travelers for both business and leisure travel. The customer comments cards that our travelers complete indicate the highest level of satisfaction with services provided by AirTran.

Illinois State University depends on our Regional Airport to provide convenient air service for our students and faculty and to visiting scholars, guests, and many others who visit our institution.

Please consider our strong support of AirTran Airways' application for landing and take-off reservations as you review their request. All of our travel surveys and questionnaires indicated a very strong interest in direct air service to the East Coast, especially New York. Our campus community would take full advantage of the opportunity to have this additional air service given the positive experience that we have had with AirTran Airways.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Marabeth Clapp".

Marabeth Clapp
Assistant Vice President
Business Services and Management

sq

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 JUN 12 AM 11:53
DOCKET SECTION

525 NORTH EAST STREET
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61701
309/828-7733
FAX 309/828-4907

627 STATE CAPITOL
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217/782-6216
FAX 217/782-0116



COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS
ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY
EXECUTIVE

JOHN W. MAITLAND, JR.
SENATOR
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER
44TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

June 2, 1997

Mr. Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
97 JUN 12 AM 11:53
PROJECT SECTION

Dear Secretary Slater:

I am writing in support of an application filed by AirTran Airways for slots at New York's LaGuardia Airport to provide two daily round-trips from Bloomington-Normal, IL as well as two other market areas.

I have personally flown AirTran Airways on a number of occasions and can attest to their quality and their efficiency of operation. Currently their flight from Bloomington to Orlando is continuing to gain ridership almost on a daily basis. The convenience of the Central Illinois Regional Airport in Bloomington is well known and I think is contributing to the increased number of passengers using their facility.

The LaGuardia slots would be a logical extension of their service from Bloomington. I would personally use the flight and I have talked to many who are excited about the possibility of using it, not only for business purposes but also for pleasure to travel to New York City for the theater and other vacation desires. With the tremendous overcrowding, especially at O'Hare, I am convinced that travelers would use AirTran for their trips to the East Coast.

Currently the area is underserved and it is my hope that this can be remedied and I would urge strong consideration and your approval of AirTran's application.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "John W. Maitland, Jr.", written over a printed name and title.

JOHN W. MAITLAND, JR.
State Senator

JWM:bm

DISTRICT OFFICE:

2203 EASTLAND DR., SUITE 3
BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS 61704
309-663-2455
FAX: 309-663-7055
EMAIL: repbrady@ice.net

CAPITOL OFFICE:

2126-O STRATTON BUILDING
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62706
217-782-1118



STATE OF ILLINOIS
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
BILL BRADY
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 88TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES:

- INSURANCE
- REPUBLICAN SPOKESMAN
- FINANCIAL
- STATE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION & ELECTION REFORM
- ENVIRONMENT & ENERGY
- BANKS SELLING INSURANCE
- ECONOMIC & FISCAL COMMISSION

June 2, 1997

Mr. Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
400 7th St., SW
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Docket #OST-97-2557

Dear Secretary Slater:

I understand that AirTran Airways has, under the above docket number, requested that your office issue an exemption of the slot restrictions at New York's LaGuardia Airport to allow the carrier to provide twice daily scheduled flights between LaGuardia and Bloomington-Normal, Illinois/Quad Cities-Moline, Illinois. Please consider this letter as indication of my strong support for this application.

As you may know, the cities of Bloomington and Normal are part of the district that I represent. These two communities host the corporate headquarters for such major international and national firms as State Farm Mutual Insurance, Eureka Vacuum, Mitsubishi Motors of America and Country Companies Insurance. They are also home to Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University. The availability of quality, convenient air service is vital to the continued growth and prosperity of these companies as well as the hundreds of small businesses that call Bloomington-Normal and McLean County home. In addition, Bloomington-Normal's location in Central Illinois and the excellent interstate system that serves the community and the region allows Bloomington-Normal to serve as the regional transportation hub for Central Illinois.

Combined with Quad Cities/Moline, Illinois the proposed service from the Central Illinois Regional Airport has the potential to serve over 1.5 million citizens of the State of Illinois. New York, as a major business and leisure destination, represents one of the largest unserved markets from this region.

I would ask that you strongly consider issuing the exemption requested by AirTran Airways in their application. The fact that AirTran is a new entrant carrier proposing to serve a region of the country that is without existing service to the New York metropolitan area would clearly qualify the proposed exemption for positive consideration by your office.

Sincerely,

William E. Brady
State Representative

RECEIVED
DOCKET # OST-97-2557
JUN 12 AM 11:53
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

CORRESPONDENCE

Dan Rutherford

State Representative • 87th District

District Office:
732 W. Madison St.
Pontiac, IL 61764
815/842-3632
Fax: 815/842-2875

Capitol Office:
H-2 Stratton Bldg.
Springfield, IL 62706
217/782-7776

Bloomington Office:
P.O. Box 979
Bloomington, IL 61702
309/662-6944

Committees:
Republican Spokesman,
Executive Committee
Member:
Financial Institutions
Insurance
State Government
Administration &
Election Reform



June 4, 1997

The Honorable Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I strongly support AirTran Airways application for landing and take-off reservations at New York's LaGuardia Airport.

Air service between New York City and Central Illinois Regional Airport is vital to the continued economic growth of the Bloomington-Normal area. At a time when airports of similar size are experiencing difficulty in maintaining traffic volume, Central Illinois Regional Airport continues to expand in both ridership and availability of routes.

Mr. Secretary, Bloomington-Normal is experiencing some of the greatest population and economic growth of any urban center of comparable size. Reserved slots for AirTran Airways to and from LaGuardia will serve to further enhance the economic development of this state's most vibrant downstate economy. I encourage your attention to AirTran's application, and I thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Rutherford".

DAN RUTHERFORD
State Representative

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET SECTION
19 JUL 12 AM 11:53

CORRESPONDENCE

State Farm Insurance Companies



June 4, 1997

Corporate Headquarters
One State Farm Plaza
Bloomington, Illinois 61710-0001

Rodney Slater
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
91 JUN 12 AM 11:50
DOCKET SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Slater:

I write to you today on behalf of State Farm Insurance Companies in support of AirTran Airways' application with the Department of Transportation for slots which would allow them to operate twice daily service between our Central Illinois Regional Airport and New York's Laguardia Airport.

State Farm Insurance Companies later this week will celebrate its 75th anniversary. We have our roots here in Central Illinois, having been founded in 1922 by a retired farmer from rural Bloomington. And, although we've grown to be the nation's largest Automobile and Fire & Casualty insurance company, with 28 regional offices nationwide, we have retained our Corporate Headquarters in Bloomington, Illinois.

As you can imagine, we do more than \$20 million in air travel each year. Specifically, New York is our 14th largest city pair from Bloomington, Illinois.

Our experiences with AirTran Airways from both a personal as well as a business standpoint have been overwhelmingly positive. I can count on one hand the number of concerns voiced by our business and leisure travelers about AirTran since the inception of their Bloomington-Orlando service last December. They are a solid airline with excellent employees who provide what we at State Farm call "Good Neighbor" service.

Bloomington-Normal is situated in the heart of Central Illinois at the intersections of Interstates 55, 74, and 39. The Central Illinois Regional Airport has become the envy of all of the other Central Illinois communities for their ability to attract AirTran and most recently Frontier Airlines to provide jet service to our community. We are blessed with two excellent universities (Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan University), an extremely low unemployment rate, and a community atmosphere conducive to raising a family.

State Farm has never been of the opinion that we should spend money to "buy an airline" to come to our town. But when an opportunity makes sound fiscal sense for the airline and the community, which it does in the case of AirTran Airways and the Bloomington to Laguardia connection, then we will do all we can

Rodney Slater
Page 2
June 4, 1997

as State Farm Insurance to support the service with our business and leisure travelers.

In short, we support AirTran Airways' application for slots at Laguardia, and are in hopes that you will act favorably upon their request.

If I can provide additional information to you regarding this matter, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David J. Colee". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

David J. Colee, Supervisor
Air Travel/Lodging Unit
State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Companies

DC/054/0603001

CORRESPONDENCE



DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

97 JUN 12 AM 11:53

DOCKET SECTION

June 9, 1997

The Honorable Rodney Slater
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th St. S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Docket OST-97-2557

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is my pleasure to write you in strong support of the application filed by AirTran Airways for an exemption from Subparts K and S of 14 CFR Part 93 in order to provide nonstop service to New York LaGuardia from Bloomington-Normal, Illinois/Moline-Quad Cities, Illinois.

AirTran Airways began daily service between Bloomington-Normal, Illinois and Orlando, Florida in December, 1996. This new service has met with resounding success and acceptance as evidenced by the letters of support from the business leaders and AirTran's strong performance in the market to date. Additionally, I have been told that advance bookings from Bloomington-Normal are very strong.

On the strength of AirTran's arrival and that of Frontier Airlines in January, 1997 traffic at the Central Illinois Regional Airport has grown at a remarkable rate of 63% during calendar year 1997. It is interesting to note that even as AirTran and Frontier begin to cultivate their success in Bloomington-Normal, the three incumbent carriers, Northwest Airlin, American Eagle and Trans World Express, are witnessing significant increases in their traffic as well. We believe the arrival of AirTran and Frontier has had an extremely positive impact on the overall competitive environment within the entire Central Illinois area.

We further believe that by granting AirTran the slots requested in their application, the Department of Transportation would foster even stronger competition in the Central Illinois market. The two regions that would be served by the service proposed in AirTran's application represent a combined population of over 1.5 million people and jointly encompass ten major metropolitan areas. These metropolitan areas are the home to several major national and international corporations such as State Farm Insurance, Mitsubishi Motor Manufacturing of America, Caterpillar, John Deere, Eureka and Archer Daniels Midland.

Page 2
Honorable Rodney Slater
June 9, 1997

While both regions enjoy a growing economic environment, the availability of quality, convenient and low cost air service is a vital component to their continued economic health. As a major business center, New York and the service proposed by AirTran Airways represents a strong positive step toward ensuring that this level of air service will be available to meet the needs of both the strong business component of the Central Illinois economy and the leisure traveller as well.

Not only do we believe that the presence of AirTran Airways service from the Central Illinois Regional Airport will accommodate existing demand, which we believe to be substantial, we believe strongly that it will stimulate latent demand as well through the ability of more reasonably priced airfares. A check of a business related airfare from Central Illinois Regional Airport to New York LaGuardia indicates that the current fare available on the three mega-carriers serving our community indicates that the fare is \$936 plus the passenger facility charges. As indicated in AirTran Airways application, their fare basis that would be available for this service would be substantially less than what the current market dictates. We believe this is also good for competition inasmuch as AirTran's lower fares would certainly be matched by those other carriers serving both regions and offering New York LaGuardia service opportunities through their hub operations.

In short, Mr. Secretary, the service proposed by AirTran Airways in their application will help insure the continued economic vitality of a region of the country that encompasses over 1.5 million people and several major national and international corporations. It will also provide for new level of competition that has not been available to the business community or the leisure traveller from this region before. As a new entrant carrier willing to offer quality service from a region that currently does not enjoy the service being proposed, we believe that AirTran Airways' application matches the profile that was contemplated when Congress created the authority for the Secretary's office to issue new slots to capacity controlled airports. With that in mind we would ask for your favorable consideration of AirTran's application and would welcome the opportunity to greet you on the first flight of AirTran Airways from New York LaGuardia to the Central Illinois Regional Airport.

Cordially,
BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY



Michael La Pier, A.A.E.
Executive Director