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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS

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TO: U.S. DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION, DOCUMENTARY SERVICES, DOCKET SECTION

FROM: ARNOLD HERMER, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD, THE FASHION, POB 4367, SHREVEPORT, LA.  
71134-0367

DATE: May 12, 1999

RE: Shreveport - Chicago/O' Hare Air Service

American Airlines has recently announced it will terminate its service which linked the Shreveport Airport and The Chicago O' Hare Airport. American Airlines has also relinquisher' the rights to the O'Hare gates it had been utilizing for that service. Baton Rouge is already lobbying for those spots. The Shreveport Airport Authority has hired a Washington attorney who specializes in aviation matters, and he has filed a Petition with the Department of Transportation asking that the O'Hare slots be assigned to Shreveport.

Our area has not been able to enjoy the same level of new service as others and has become an important issue for this region of the country. American Airlines, nor any other airline, must be allowed to make a unilateral decision regarding how it will serve Shreveport or the state. While American is free to leave, it is essential that the community be given the opportunity to obtain and support service from another airline.

The service is essential for the community to compete -against larger markets for tourism and new business. Northwest Louisiana continues to expand, however, such investments may be of little value if we do not continue to implement jet transportation markets such as Chicago. Airline service is key to economic development which has an impact on all businesses in Shreveport.

Sincerely,

*Arnold Hermer*  
ARNOLD HERMER

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