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April 29, 2004

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

RECEIVED
MAY 04 2004
CITY MGR'S OFFICE

Re: City of Abilene's Application to DOT's FY04 Small Community Air Service Development Program

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I support the City of Abilene's request for a Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) grant to continue improving air service at Abilene Regional Airport for the benefit of west central Texans. In 2002 Abilene received the smallest grant awarded to any community from the program.

The Abilene Regional Airport is a value to this area of the state. It is the only airport within 170 miles to serve the residents of at least a 30 county region.

Abilene Regional Airport is a tremendous asset to the commercial development of West Central Texas. To continue this commercial development, your approval of Abilene's FY04 SCASDP grant would help fund a business plan that will develop an outreach to the residents living in the rural areas of the airport's 32-county service area, including the formation of a Regional Air Service Advisory Council and proposed new regional shuttle service to the airport.

Consequently, I respectfully request your favorable action on Abilene Regional Airport's grant application.

Kindest regards.

Yours very truly,

Steve Suttle

STEPHEN H. SUTTLE

SHS/pa

cc: Mayor Grady Barr
City of Abilene
P.O. Box 60
Abilene, Texas 79604