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Representatives Of Quality Products For Public Safely And The Sporting Industry

D. 2000-7181

The Honorable Rodney Slater
United States Department of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

OST-00-7181-17

The recent signing of the Wendell H. Ford Aviat ion Investment and Reform Act for the 21st Century (the "Ford Act") has great potential to increase competition and provide more travel choices for the residents of Colorado. Under Section 4 1718 (a), the Department can award up to twelve exemption slots to allow limited frequencies on routes between Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and domestic hubs beyond the 1,250 mile perimeter rule. We urge you to approve the petition submitted by Denver-based Frontier Airlines for four slots to allow nonstop service to Denver International Airport, which is located outside of the perimeter rule. An award of the slots requested to Frontier would benefit the Denver community, Colorado, communities throughout the west and the future of airline competition.

Frontier is entering its sixth year of operations, as well as its second consecutive year of profitability. The airline currently provides air serv ice to 20 major metropolitan cities from its Denver hub, and 16 of those are among the top origin and destination markets as measured by the Department. Direct service to National Airport would add a significant component to Frontier's scope, as well as provide convenient, one-stop service to cit ies served by Frontier beyond Denver.

The "Ford Act" calls for "increased competition by new entrant carriers or in multiple markets" and we believe Frontier's presence offers a strong track record in promoting air competition in Denver and throughout the country. The slots awarded by the Department to Frontier Airlines at New York's LaGuardia Airport in 1997 are a good example of how opening markets and promoting air competition is beneficial for multiple communities. Since the inception of Frontier's Denver – LaGuardia service, the number of passengers traveling on this route has increased more than 88 percent, while the average fare on that same route has decreased more than 22 percent. These statistics aside, the mere fact that the citizens and businesses of Denver (and communities connecting in Denver) and New York have additional travel options should be counted as a success for all communities, as well as for the Department.

We hope you will demonstrate your continued support for the future of deregulation by awarding two non-stop daily flights (four slots) from National Airport to Frontier Airlines. As proponents of open markets and airline competition, we thank you in advance for your consideration.

Best Regards,

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