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LANSING, N.Y.
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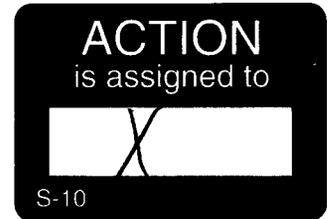
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April 9, 2004

The Honorable Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 7th Street SW, Room 10200
Washington, DC 20590

**Re: Application for Small Community Air Service Development Grant –
Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport, Ithaca, New York.**

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I write today in support of the grant application from the Ithaca Tompkins Regional Airport. As you may have read recently in USA Today, Ithaca has been named the "Number 1 Emerging City in the United States." It is well named. In addition to being in the heart of the beautiful Finger Lakes area of Central New York, it is home to Cornell University, Ithaca College, Tompkins Cortland Community College and to many important businesses, which depend on air transportation very heavily.

The air travel needs of this community are substantial; both for business and pleasure travel, but the erosion of air service has produced a lack of competition and very high airfares, forcing people to look to other airports for reasonably priced flights. For my family and me to have to drive long distances for air travel is unproductive and costly for us as well as for the local economy. As an example, my wife and I are both involved with organizations which regularly hold meetings in far-flung areas of the United States; and we normally take at least one overseas trip each year. It is often prohibitive, from a cost standpoint, for us to make these trips from Ithaca.

A Small Community Air Service Development grant would assist Ithaca with its goal of attracting another airline to compete with its sole existing carrier, US Airways Express. A second airline would bring a greater choice of destinations and schedules, as well as lower airfares that would be a tremendous help for Ithaca's very mobile community.

As the "Number 1 Emerging City in the United States" Ithaca may well be the community of the future. Since it is isolated from rail and the interstate road system, it is

vital that air service be improved over what is currently available. Your utmost consideration of Ithaca's application would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David G. Flinn". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

David G. Flinn
Owner
Starlane Farms