DODGE JONES FOUNDATION

May 6, 2004

LAWRENCE E. GILL
GRANTS ADMINISTRATOR

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

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

Dear Secretary Mineta:

I enthusiastically 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 air travelers throughout our region.

As you and your staff are aware, Abilene received $85,010 from the 2002 SCASDP program, the smallest yet perhaps most appreciated grant awarded to any community. That $85,010, combined with local economic development funds, enabled the airport to create an unbelievably successful Business Development Program which resulted in significant air service improvements beneficial to our area air travelers.

Approval of Abilene's FY04 grant proposal would fund a business plan that will further address service and fare deficiencies.

As both a local businessman, as well as the Chairman of the Airport Development Board, I assure you that the direction Abilene Airport has taken is exactly the direction the SCASDP was created to support. The results to date speak for themselves and I encourage your positive consideration for this grant request.

Sincerely,

Lawrence E. Gill
Grants Administrator

LEG/dm

cc: Mayor Grady Barr

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