ABILENE

THE STAR OF TEXAS

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

May 13, 2004

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

Dear Secretary Mineta:

The Abilene Chamber of Commerce strongly supports 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.

Abilene received $85,010 from the 2002 program., We combined local funds with this modest investment from DOT and the results were very positive. With this seed money, the airport created a formal Business Development Program and gained **a 46% increase in enplanements in the first six months** of two-airline service.

Abilene Regional Airport was so successful that the Office of Aviation Analysis in the U.S. Department of Transportation **uses us as a best practices model**. As you can see from the results of your 2002 investment, approval of Abilene's new FY04 grant proposal will be turned into action and the region will reap high economic benefits.

Sincerely,

Michael C McMahan
President
Abilene Chamber of Commerce

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

Abilene Chamber of Commerce

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