



Office of the Mayor

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February 12, 2020

Mr. Michael D. Gormas
United States Department of Transportation
Office of Aviation Analysis
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: DOT-OST-1996-1899, Order 2019-12-13 Prescott Regional Airport - Essential Air Service

Dear Mr. Gormas,

As the Mayor of Prescott, Arizona, it is my privilege to submit this letter of recommendation on behalf of the City of Prescott to the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), regarding selection of an airline to continue Essential Air Service (EAS) at Prescott.

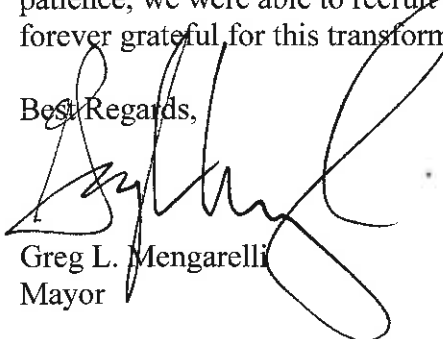
After decades of underperforming air service providers, we are now pleased that we are able to provide a highly confident recommendation, which is crucial to ensuring our future air service success. Since late August of 2018, we have had the good fortune of having SkyWest Airlines regional jet service at Prescott Regional Airport – Ernest A. Love Field (PRC), operating non-stop flights under the United Airlines brand, to Denver and Los Angeles.

United Express, operated by SkyWest Airlines, has been a resounding success, as shown in Appendix B of your *Order Requesting Proposals*. Since SkyWest's arrival, we have broken every prior air service record for PRC, including achieving the busiest month and busiest year in our airport's 70+ year history. SkyWest has operated reliability and the airfare pricing has been competitive with other options available to our travelers. This air service has made a huge contribution to our continued economic growth and we look forward to the day when our air service will require little, if any, EAS subsidies. In short, we are extremely pleased with the SkyWest Airline service that the USDOT-EAS program has funded.

Therefore, we strongly endorse the new proposal of SkyWest to continue providing our EAS flights at PRC for another three years. The new SkyWest proposal calls for service to both Denver and Los Angeles. The subsidy need is \$3.2 million per year, down almost \$800,000 per year from the current subsidy need. We anticipate our subsidy per passenger under the new SkyWest contract will be less than \$75. This is a dramatic change from a few years ago, when lackluster performance by the prior carrier resulted in the need to pursue a subsidy cap waiver.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the entire USDOT Essential Air Service team for the support provided to Prescott. Only a few years ago our EAS flights were unreliable, poorly priced and therefore not used by our citizens. With your thoughtful assistance and patience, we were able to recruit SkyWest and achieve these wonderful results. We will be forever grateful for this transformative opportunity, provided to us by the USDOT-EAS team.

Best Regards,



Greg L. Mengarelli
Mayor