



Banner Health
Page
Hospital

501 North Navajo Drive
P.O. Box 1447
Page, AZ 86040
928-645-2424
928-645-3549 Fax

April 8, 2020

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

Dear Mr. Gormas:

I am writing in strong support of the *Application for Continued Inclusion in the Alternate Essential Air Service Pilot Program* submitted by the City of Page, Arizona, on April 8, 2020, to continue service with Contour Airline's 30-seat jet aircraft to Phoenix and Las Vegas.

Due to Page's remote location, the hospital is heavily dependent upon travelling healthcare professionals to meet our staffing needs. Adequate air passenger capacity is critical to our ability to provide outstanding healthcare service to the Page community and surrounding region. Contour's air service has been exceptionally reliable, and although planes fill up from time to time, the capacity has been adequate for our travelling professionals to come and go as needed. During the COVID-19 outbreak, Banner Page Hospital has relied on additional clinical and operational staff from the Phoenix area with Contour's service the best transportation alternative for staff to arrive in a timely manner. After the COVID-19 outbreak subsides, we fully expect to resume and expand services from our tertiary partners to the Page community and without adequate air transport this may extremely difficult.

I therefore urge the Department to grant Page's request for a four-year extension of this Program to continue such successful service. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you should have any related questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dana Barnett
Chief Executive Officer (Interim)