



KNOX COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT

Jeremy B. Shaw, Manager
5 Airport Road, Owls Head, ME 04854
BUS. (207) 593-9323, FAX (207) 594-0738
jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Mr. Michael Martin
Essential Air Service Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 4, 2022

RE: DOT-OST-1997-2784

Dear Mr. Martin:

The Knox County Regional Airport (RKD), Owls Head, Maine is owned and operated by the County of Knox. At the August 1st, 2022 Special County Commissioners meeting, the two present Commissioners voted (2-0), to endorse and support Cape Air's proposal to continue EAS services at our airport for four (4) more years.

The Commission hosted public informational hearings on July 12, 2022 and August 1, 2022. Cape Air and Southern Airways Express presented their proposals at the first hearing and Boutique Air presented at the second hearing. Their proposals were posted on our website and publicized through the local papers. The public was able to provide comments/input through July 22, 2022. During the comment period, the Knox County Commission received 18 comments including the airport's host community of Owls Head in support of Cape Air. Those comments have been included in this packet.

We believe that Boutique and Southern Airways Express lack the maintenance infrastructure, fleet availability, and interline agreements in the northeast to adequately service our community. The community is also not waiving its Multi-engine requirement at this time. Cape Air's proven track record, robust presence in New England and because they have bid the route with the new Tecnam Traveler is the basis of our decision. Cape Air also shares Knox County's vision and commitment to the imminent evolution of electric aircraft into our national airspace system. The City of Rockland, The Knox County Commission, the Town of Owls Head, and I, all fully support the reselection of Cape Air to service the Knox County communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EAS proposal. If I can provide any further information please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jeremy B. Shaw
Manager, Knox County Regional Airport

Cc: Mr. Tom Luttrell, City Manager, City of Rockland
Ms. Dorothy G. Meriwether, Chair, Knox County Commission
Mr. Andrew Hart, Administrator, County of Knox
Mr. Gordon Page, Chair, Town of Owls Head Select Board
Mr. John Guimond, Airport Manager, AUG
Mr. Andrew Bonney, Hyannis Air Service
Mr. Mark Cestari, Southern Airways Express
Mr. Brian Konrad, Boutique Airways



City of Rockland, Maine

City Hall Office Building
270 Pleasant Street
Rockland, Maine 04841

Thomas Luttrell, City Manager
tluttrell@rocklandmaine.gov
Telephone: 207.593-0638

Telephone: 207.594.0300
Fax: 207.594.9481

U.S. Department of Transportation
Essential Air Service Division, X-53
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 3, 2022

U.S. Dept of Transportation:

The City of Rockland was represented at the Knox County Commission hosted public meetings held on July 12, 2022 and August 1, 2022. Southern Airways and Cape Air presented their proposal at the first hearing and Boutique Air presented at the second hearing. Their proposals were well publicized and we were able to participate in the question and answer section of the presentation.

The City enjoyed all three presentations and has come away with supporting Cape Air's proposal for essential air service for Knox County Airport.

The City of Rockland supports Cape Air's proposal for the reasons below:

1. proven track record and history serving Rockland
2. reasonable subsidy request,
3. robust presence in New England
4. multiple in-line agreements

Sincerely,

Thomas J. Luttrell
City Manager

cc: Jeremy Shaw, Airport Manager, RKD



Mr. Michael Martin
Essential Air Service Division
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

August 3, 2022

RE: DOT-OST-1997-2784

Dear Mr. Martin:

The Knox County Regional Airport (RKD), Owls Head, Maine is owned and operated by the County of Knox. On August 1, 2022, two of the three elected County Commissioners that were present, voted (2-0), to endorse and support Cape Air's proposal to continue EAS services at our airport for four (4) more years.

The Commission hosted public informational hearings on July 12, 2022 and August 1, 2022. Cape Air and Southern Airways presented their proposal at the first hearing and Boutique Air presented at the second hearing. Their proposals were posted on our website and publicized through the local papers. The public was able to provide comments/input through July 22, 2022. Eighteen comments were received during the comment period, and 17 out of the 18 comments were in support of Cape Air's reselection.

Cape Air's proven track record, abundant presence in New England, superior customer service, utilization of a brand new aircraft, maintenance network, fleet availability, and numerous interline agreements are just a few reasons why we recommend Cape Air be awarded the next Essential Air Service contract at the Knox County Regional Airport. Cape Air's proposal was also the only proposal that offered a multi-engine service to Boston, which is important for our community. It is not only the benefits that they currently offer our community, but their vision for the use of electric aircraft in the future aligns directly with our development efforts.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the EAS proposal. If we can provide any further information please feel free to contact the Airport Manager, Jeremy Shaw.

Sincerely,

Dorothy G. Meriwether, Chair

cc: Andrew Bonney, Hyannis Air Service, Inc.
Mr. Brian Konrad, Boutique Air
Mr. Mark Cestari, Southern Airways Express
Mr. John Guimond, Airport Manager, AUG
Tom Luttrell, City Manager, City of Rockland
Jeremy Shaw, Airport Manager, RKD

County Administrator Andrew L. Hart
Commission Chair Dorothy G. Meriwether, District 1
Commissioner Richard L. Parent, District 2
Commissioner Sharyn L. Pohlman, District 3



Gordon Page, Sr., Chair, Select Board
Thomas Von Malder, Select Board
Linda Post, Select Board

Eleanor Stone, Town Clerk

Town of Owls Head
224 Ash Point Drive
Owls Head, ME 04854
[phone] 207-594-7434 ~ [fax] 207-594-7598

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7-12-2022

5 July 2022

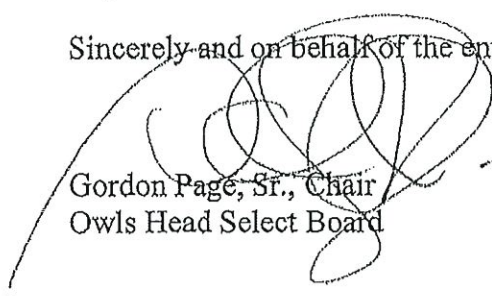
Honorable Members of the Knox County Commission
c/o Andrew Hart, County Administrator
Knox County Administrative Office
62 Union Street
Rockland, ME 04841

Dear Commissioners:

The Owls Head Select Board voted unanimously at their 5 July 2022 regular meeting to support the renewal of Cape Air as the essential air service provider at the Knox County Regional Airport, [KRKD].

It is our opinion that Cape Air has fulfilled its commitment to the region since beginning its operations here in 2008, and we fully anticipate that Cape Air will continue to provide the type of services necessary to satisfy the needs of those individuals and businesses who have come to rely on them.

Sincerely and on behalf of the entire Owls Head Select Board,



Gordon Page, Sr., Chair
Owls Head Select Board

cc: Select Board Member, Linda Post; Select Board Member, Thomas Von Malder;
Owls Head Administrative Assistant; KRKD Manager



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Support for Cape Air

Ilmi Carter <ilmi.carter@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 6:32 AM

To: jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov, eglasier@rocklandmaine.gov, Sarah Austin <saustin@rocklandmaine.gov>, ndavis@rocklandmaine.gov, nkalloch@rocklandmaine.gov, Imacellanruf@rocklandmaine.gov, dmeriwether@knoxcountymaine.gov, rparent@knoxcountymaine.gov, spohlman@knoxcountymaine.gov

Hi all,

I would like to give you my support for maintaining Cape Air at the Knox County Airport. My oldest daughter went to college in Boston and I relied on Cape Air to bring her back and forth for the five years at Northeastern University. They provided a valuable service, have great customer service and are an asset to our community. They add additional flights during peak times of the year and maintain necessary service when there are few riders year round.

Respectfully,

Ilmi Carter
139 Rankin Street
Rockland



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Prospective DOT Contract with Carriers for Knox County Airport

Sagadahocman <sagadahocman@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 9:33 AM

To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Cc: eglaser@rocklandmaine.gov, saustin@rocklandmaine.gov, ndavis@rocklandmaine.gov, nkalloch@rocklandmaine.gov, Imacellanruf@rocklandmaine.gov, dmeriwether@knoxcountymaine.gov, rparent@knoxcountymaine.gov, spohlman@knoxcountymaine.gov

Dear Mr. Shaw,

I am writing in response to your request for comment on the prospective award of a contract for the next succeeding air carrier at Knox County Airport. This letter is written to give you my strongest favorable endorsement of the Cape Air as a service provider. My experience is that they are consistently efficient, professional, reliable and thoroughly competent in providing their service to their customers. While the aircraft in their fleet are not new they are well maintained and reliable. The pilots are excellent at their jobs. I have observed them while orienting and training new pilots and their practice appears to me to be thorough and professional. I have also observed at close quarters the competent way they handle the vagaries of weather conditions on the New England coast. In addition, they are affordable. Their ticket prices are reasonable and they offer a very cost effective multi-flight booklet rate to persons who travel frequently like myself. My hope is that DOT will choose to retain their services under the succeeding contract.

I use Knox County Airport as my primary point of departure for air travel. I have found Cape Air's flight schedules to be accommodating for most of the travel that I do. They appear to have a good working relationship with carriers that I typically connect with in Boston. I have never experienced a service failure due to Cape Air coordination with these other carriers. This extends even to recovery of luggage mishandled by other carriers as well as rescheduling of flights.

I am a resident of Camden, Maine, having resided there since 2011. For many years my business required that I travel extensively both domestically and internationally. I frequently flew more than 100,000 miles per year up until my retirement in 2018. Since then I have maintained an active travel schedule impeded only by the recent COVID restrictions. Since 2018 I have made at least a dozen flights per year with Cape Air. I will say that I have never had a bad experience with performance of either their staff or equipment in the entire time that I have been flying with Cape Air.

In closing, my recommendation is that DOT award the next contract for Knox County Airport service to Cape Air.

Sincerely,

James G Bennett
109 Washington Street
Camden, Maine 04843
+1.207.542.2612



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Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Airport carrier contract

Tade Mahoney <tademahoney@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 10:21 AM

To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Hi Mr Shaw,

I am writing to give my strong support for renewing the contract with Cape Air. As a frequent business traveller from Maine for many years I relied heavily on their service from both Rockland and Augusta and found them to be great company with excellent employees and customer service.

I hope you will be able to stay with what has proven to be a reliable solution for the Knox county travelers.

Regards,

Tim Mahoney
Camden



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Public comment on the selection of a carrier to serve the Knox County Regional Airport.

George Terrien <gterrien@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 10:21 AM

To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov, Ed Glaser <eglaser@rocklandmaine.gov>, Sarah Austin <saustin@rocklandmaine.gov>, Nathan Davis <ndavis@rocklandmaine.gov>, Nicole Kalloch <nkalloch@rocklandmaine.gov>, Louise Maclellanruf <lmaclellanruf@rocklandmaine.gov>, dmeriwether@knoxcountymaine.gov, rparent@knoxcountymaine.gov, spohlman@knoxcountymaine.gov

Dear Mr. Shaw, Mayor Glaser and the members of the Rockland City Council, and the Commissioners of Knox County,

I urge you all to look most favorably upon the proposal submitted by Cape Air for selection as the carrier to serve our airport for the next contract period, hoping that you will extend this message up the ladder of decision to those entities and individuals finally responsible.

Family, friends, Connie Hayes (to whom I am married), and I have travelled with and depended upon Cape Air numerous times during their tenure, fully satisfied with their service, service that has from time to time extended well beyond what I would consider their obligation, including to address several disruptions quite beyond their control. I know of no complaints to diminish these experiences. Moreover, their employees in Rockland and Logan have always served us courteously and well, contributing a sense of well-being and welcome to visitors and residents alike.

For business and pleasure, Cape Air has served us well, very well, without exception. Their value extends far beyond simply transit, and the quality of their service shines in comparison with more than a few experiences endured on extended legs of journeys begun and ended with Cape Air.

In addition to anticipating the continuation of their engagement, I value--as I imagine do you--the importance of reinforcing strong ties, personal and transactional, among participants in society at every level, well beyond those benefits of cost and service, ties that contribute to mutual and extended well-being in our society.

Thank you for your consideration.

George B. Terrien

--

George B. Terrien, Architect
222 Broadway
Rockland, ME 04841-2608
207-594-1633



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Fwd: cape air bid

Nate Davis <ndavis@rocklandmaine.gov>
To: jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 11:56 AM

----- Message transféré -----

Sujet:cape air bid

Date :Wed, 6 Jul 2022 08:43:55 -0400

De:Ozzie <ozzie24ac@gmail.com>

Pour:ndavis@rocklandmaine.gov <ndavis@rocklandmaine.gov>

I have used cape air many times as well as my family..always on time excepting for weather conditions..can then use augusta airport to depart or land..I support their continued services....Austin Childs

Sent from Mail for Windows



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Bidding Carriers

Steve White <rsw04572@gmail.com>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 12:53 PM

Reply-To: rsw04572@gmail.com

To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Cc: rsw04572@gmail.com

Jeremy,

Nice article in the Pen Bay Pilot.

Your quote says a lot. Sufficient seats when we need them plus codeshare partner airlines that offer service and bags checked through to the destinations we want are key.

I'd add one more consideration, convenience. Would a larger (or just different pool) of partner airline destinations and flights overcome the added drive time prospective passengers from the communities you serve face if they travel to AUG, BGR, or PWM instead of RKD?

Regards,

Steve White

Rockport

Mobile: 207-975-6524



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Airport and Airline

Karen West <cpmgt@fairpoint.net>
To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 1:28 PM

Hi, just read the article in the Pen Bay Pilot. I would love to fly out of Rockland, but I'm really scared of these small planes. I used to fly in them fairly frequently, but the turbulence and buffeting is just too harrowing for me, especially along the coast. If you could just get larger planes, I'd use you all the time!

Karen Morgan

Washington ME

Karen (cpmgt@fairpoint.net)

O: 207-845-2934

C: 207-350-1924

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Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Knox Airport Carrier Contract

Chad Harris <chad@seabreezefarms.com>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 2:34 PM

To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Hi there, I live in South Thomaston and fly to and from Boston regularly using CapeAir out of Owls Head. I have enjoyed the service of CapeAir and my input is to award the renewal contract to CapeAir. They have plenty of flights each day and their prices are reasonable, especially if one has a travel pass with them.

Thank you for considering this input.

Sincerely,

Chad Harris



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Public Input for Air service into Know County Airport

John Weston <john.weston@unified.us.com>

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 7:07 PM

To: "Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov" <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Mr. Shaw

I read the news article today regarding the captioned topic.

I appreciate the time you have taken to have the proposals presented for review by us (the public) for future Air Service in and out of Know County Airport.

I read all three proposals referenced in the news article and find the proposal from Cape Air the most complete and compelling for several reasons:

Cape Air is the only company that specifically uses aircraft with Air Conditioning in addition to providing a pressurized cabin.

They have a strong presence at BOS in the JetBlue terminal for ease of connecting flights.

They provide much better code sharing and connections to other destinations that I need to fly to for work and pleasure trips.

Cape Air is the only company which mentioned basing flight crews in our community, which tells me they care about being part of the community.

My wife and I recently purchased land in Rockport and are in the process of building our new home there with plans to move in during the Spring, 2024 timeframe. We will be full time residents and plan on still working full time and traveling for work and pleasure.

Having good Air Service was a large consideration for our choice of living in Rockport.

Please let me know if you have any questions about our comments, we look forward to using Know County Airport in the future.

Regards,

John Weston



Unified Network Consulting, LLC

214.384.3463

john.weston@unified.us.com



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Cape Air Recommendation

1 message

Peg Junge <peg.junge@gmail.com>
To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Wed, Jul 6, 2022 at 8:02 PM

Hello Jeremy,

I saw the recent article in the Penbay Pilot about choosing an airline partner for our local service to Boston. I just wanted to say that I have been very happy flying with Cape Air (2 times per year). Everyone has been very cordial and the pilots are competent and inspire confidence. After reading through the other proposals, I realized Cape Air is the only regionally based of the three, which is meaningful to me. I was also excited to see that they are expanding their fleet to include electric planes. Lastly, I like that Cape Air has a designated gate at Logan, making it easier for me to plan my walk to connecting flights. In short, I recommend we stay with Cape Air.

My one question is why we pay more out of Rockland, compared to Augusta. The miles are similar, so one would think the ticket costs would be similar. I did see that the 'law enforcement officer' cost is a huge difference between the two airports and wonder why that is the case. If you have time to shed some light on this, please do!

Many thanks,
Peg Junge, Rockland



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Knox County Airport

Heather Kaplan <kaplandvm@yahoo.com>

Thu, Jul 7, 2022 at 2:42 PM

Reply-To: Heather Kaplan <kaplandvm@yahoo.com>

To: "jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov" <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Good afternoon!

I just wanted to write a quick note about the possible change of carrier at the airport. I fly in and out of Knox County Airport quite frequently. I have had consistently great service with Capeair. They have a good selection of flights, reasonable prices and have always acted professionally. If public opinion matters, my vote is to keep Capeair!

Thank you,

Heather Kaplan

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Cape Air at Knox Country Regional Airport

Van Baalen, Mark <m vb@harvard.edu>

Sat, Jul 9, 2022 at 7:48 AM

To: "Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov" <Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Dear Mr. Shaw,

I am writing in support of the application of Cape Air to renew their contract to serve our airport. Over the years Cape Air has done a nice job with their fleet, dealing with the challenges of our coastal weather. A big advantage of Cape Air for travelers is that their gate at Logan Airport is in Terminal C, making it easy and convenient to travel onward on Jet Blue. Not sure if the other applicants will be able to offer a similar arrangement.

Sincerely,
Mark Van Baalen
Rockport



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Cape Air

Chris Brown <chris.brown@camdenre.com>
To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Tue, Jul 12, 2022 at 9:06 AM

I'd like to cast my comment/vote for Cape Air. I fly with them on a regular basis - not just from RKD, I also fly out of Augusta periodically and use them in different areas of the Caribbean. They've always been great to work with.

Christopher A. Brown
800-236-1920
207-236-6171
fax 207-236-6091

camdenre.com
chris.brown@camdenre.com



CAMDEN REAL ESTATE COMPANY

43 Elm Street
Camden, Maine 04843



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Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Cape Air

Bob White <whitewoodcraft@gmail.com>
To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 1:16 PM

Mr. Shaw,

I would like to voice my support for the continuation of Cape Air Service to Noston from the airport in Owls Head. In their favor: experience with the route, experience with the weather, great, accommodating service, easy connections/relationships with major carriers at Logan.

Thank you,

Bob White
33 Shibbles Lane
Rockport, Maine

Sent from my iPad



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Cape Air's service

Holly Badger English <hollybenglish@gmail.com>
To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 1:58 PM

Dear Mr Shaw,

The last three consecutive times that I tried to fly on Cape Air either from Owls Head to Boston or Boston to Owls Head, the flights were canceled. The last time I was stranded in Boston on a lovely summer afternoon. I'm a senior and decided to just ride on the reliable Concord bus so that I'd be reasonable sure that I'd make my connection to a continuing flight out of Logan. It sounds like Cape will continue to provide air service out of Owl's Head but my last three experiences with Cape Air were unsatisfactory to say the least.

Thanks for your time and attention.

Sincerely,

Holly B. English



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Public Comment: Air service contract decision

Paul Chartrand <paul@chartrandimports.com>

Wed, Jul 13, 2022 at 2:56 PM

To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov, dmeriwether@knoxcountymaine.gov, rparent@knoxcountymaine.gov, spohlman@knoxcountymaine.gov

Dear Mr. Shaw and Knox Cty Commissioners,

I have lived in and operated an international import business based in Rockland since 1986. I also was the State Representative for District 92, the City of Rockland, from 1994-1998, serving all four years on the Joint Transportation Committee.

As Rockland's State Representative and a member of that committee, I had the opportunity to study federal and state funding to private transportation providers such as those who serve Knox Cty. As a business person with a busy national and international travel schedule, I have also had the opportunity to use Knox Cty airport and the Cape Air service for the last fourteen years as well as the air service on the previous contract.

All of those experiences give me a clear opinion on the upcoming service contract decision. I strongly encourage you to choose Cape Air for the renewal of their contract. I have used their service many times and also took advantage of their TravelPass option which offers lower fares for annual paid in advance purchases.

I always have been pleased and impressed with the service offered to Knox Cty. by a relatively small company such as Cape Air. Personnel have been helpful and understanding on stressful flying days, and always went the extra distance to keep a customer satisfied. The equipment used seems up to date and comfortable, and most flights depart and arrive on time. I am also impressed with the overall longevity of Cape Air as compared to other bidders.

Although I am not familiar with the other bidders for this contract, I cannot see any reason to force a major change on the citizens and travelers to and from Knox Cty.

From what I read of the recent meeting, the other participating bidder did not offer any significantly different financial support or completion accuracy. Cape Air has provided superb service for 14 years and wishes to continue. They are familiar with Knox Cty. airport and Logan in Boston, which are the keys to this operation. It would be a risk to change providers at this time, especially given the many present and potential uncertainties in the travel industry. Such a risk would be taken for no significant advantage that I can see from my experience and what I have read.

I encourage you to make the same decision as I have in this matter, and avoid the many potential risks of changing to a carrier with less experience and no experience at all with Knox Cty.

Sincerely,
Paul Chartrand
Chartrand Imports
Rockland, Maine
www.chartrandimports.com



Jeremy Shaw <jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov>

Letter in support for Cape Air

Joseph Steinberger <steinberger@zwi.net>
To: Jshaw@knoxcountymaine.gov

Fri, Jul 15, 2022 at 9:31 PM

Dear Mr. Shaw,

My wife Keiko and I are regular users of the Cape Air flight to Boston. We have been very satisfied with the service they have provided and wish to support their application for a further contract.

The Cape Air service has been reliable and reasonably priced, and the staff have been very friendly and helpful.

It would be great if Cape Air could provide service also to Laganardia airport in New York City. That connection would be extremely useful to many people, and would be a boost to our Rockland area economy.

Joseph Steinberger

7 Gay St. Place

Rockland, ME 04841

207 596-0731