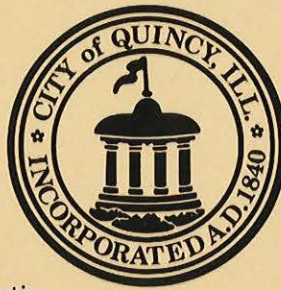


MICHAEL A. TROUP
MAYOR



CITY HALL
EST. 1840

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

August 19, 2022

Dear Mr. Martin,

As you are aware, last year Cape Air was selected by the City of Quincy and the Quincy Regional Airport to provide Essential Air Service at Quincy Regional Airport. Cape Air was selected and completed a contract to provide 36 weekly flights equally to St. Louis Lambert airport and Chicago O'Hare airports. Due in part to the nationwide shortage of qualified pilots, Cape Air has had difficulty in completing these 36 weekly flights and, in fact, has recently requested to reduce their weekly flights from 36 to 12. The City of Quincy does not and cannot support Cape Air's request for such a significant reduction in air service to our community. I understand that you received a previous response from our Interim Airport Director, but he was not authorized to speak on behalf of the City of Quincy.

As your office opened up a new round of Essential Air Service and the country is experiencing a significant and unprecedented pilot shortage, no airline submitted a twin engine aircraft proposal. We understand that this is due in part to the pilot shortage as well as to the FAA requirements of minimum hours to serve as a pilot in a twin engine aircraft. The alternative that Quincy faces is to accept inferior, unreliable air service from Cape Air, or have commercial flights completely stop for the near term, or for Quincy to select one of the two single engine airline proposals.

Based on the City of Quincy and Quincy Regional Airport interest in maintaining reliable scheduled commercial air service, and based on our review of the current unprecedented pilot shortage, the presentations and information provided by the two Airline proposals, we have received recommendations from the City of Quincy Aeronautics Committee, the public and from the City of Quincy City Council in support of selecting Southern Airways.

In summary, we believe that Southern Airlines presented a demonstration of reliability, contractual agreements with large airlines, interline agreements, marketing plans, available qualified pilots, commitment to base pilots in Quincy which brings Southern Airways to be our selected carrier. Again, if your office was able to enforce the current performance called for within the Cape Air contract, and in fact Cape Air was able to perform a reliable weekly flight schedule, we would prefer to maintain a twin engine commercial air service to and from Quincy Regional Airport.

We are grateful for the Essential Air Service and your efforts in supporting and administering the program. We look forward with working with you and Southern Airways for the next four years.

Michael A. Troup

Mayor

730 MAINE
QUINCY, IL 62301-4056
217.228.4545
QUINCYIL.GOV