

Watertown Airport Board  
2416 Boeing Ave  
Watertown, SD 57201

November 18, 2020

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

**RE: Essential Air Service at Watertown, SD – Docket 2011-0138-0085**

Dear Mr. Gormas:

I am writing to support the reselection of SkyWest Airlines as the provider of Essential Air Service at Watertown Regional Airport. SkyWest has provided service to Watertown since Aerodynamics, Inc. abruptly terminated service in 2019. This followed the exit of Great Lakes Airlines in 2015 that left the community without any air service. With the quality service provided by SkyWest as United Express, traffic at Watertown Regional Airport has increased significantly. The nonstop jet service to both Denver and Chicago offers our community and my business the ability to connect to more than 270 destinations, increasing our community and my company's access to clients as well as client access to our business. The improved service to virtually the entire world has opened new business opportunities that are unmatched in the history of air service at Watertown.

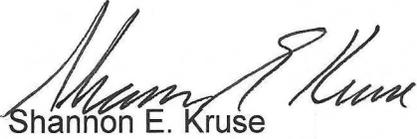
As a businessperson, it is rewarding to see that three different airlines expressed enough interest in the Watertown market to submit proposals to provide service. I believe this process by the DOT provides a great opportunity to benchmark our options against our current service. That notwithstanding, I don't feel that the services proposed by Boutique and Key Lime Air are sufficient options considering the success that SkyWest has had in developing our market and the inferior quality of service proposed by each of them.

Boutique's lack of cabin-class aircraft and the lack of full integration as United Express for both Boutique and Key Lime Air will serve only to diminish the progress that SkyWest has made in supporting our region's community and businesses. SkyWest features the highest safety, maintenance, and training protocols as a FAA Part 121 carrier, through-pricing integrated with United that offers lower fares, and corporate loyalty and discount programs for our community members and my business. Boutique and Key Lime do not offer United MileagePlus frequent flier miles. Finally, at this

current time, only SkyWest among the three proposers offers United's branded COVID-19 standards and protocols.

I want to whole heartedly express my enthusiasm for SkyWest as the carrier to be selected for continued service at Watertown, and I harbor grave concerns for what switching service providers in this environment would do to the progress the Watertown Community and SkyWest have made over the past two years.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Shannon E. Kruse". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

Shannon E. Kruse

Watertown Airport Board, President