

From: Dave Gurkin
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 12:44 PM
To: Gormas, Michael (OST)
Subject: Altoona Blair County Airport Service

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Dear Sir:

This email is requesting you to please consider keeping Southern Airways in Altoona, Pennsylvania as the air carrier serving Altoona Blair County Airport.

My name is David Gurkin, a local resident.

I am a retired airline pilot (31 years); a retired corporate pilot (7.5 years) and a former U.S. Army Helicopter Pilot with an aviation career that spans 50+ years.

I flew passengers from Altoona Blair County Airport during the early years of my airline career in the 1970's, so I have some insight of what airline service here must accomplish. Southern Airways meets those requirements.

There are several reasons for this request:

1. Southern Airways has served our community with an excellent safety record for six years.
2. Southern Airways bid to maintain service at Altoona Blair County Airport is \$1,000,000 less for a two year contract than the other bidder which the airport authority has recommended.
3. Southern Airways passenger ridership at Altoona Blair County Airport has increased each year since they began service here in 2014.
4. Southern Airways has kept their fares at affordable rates.
5. Southern Airways employs local people and has become a hometown airline investing in our community.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my request.

Sincerely,

David B. Gurkin