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Sent: Tuesday, July 28, 2020 3:34 PM
To: Gormas, Michael (OST)
Subject: Southern Airways

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Good Afternoon,

I would like to add my opinion to the EAS service here in Altoona. I have been in Aviation since 1986. I was the Director of Maintenance and later became the Director of Operations for Corporate Air LLC, A 135 Air Carrier, located in Pittsburgh at the Allegheny County Airport so I am very familiar with aircraft operations. In 2014 I came to the Altoona Blair County Airport to upstart the company I currently work for, International Group, LLC. We are a 135 Air Carrier and also the sister company of the FBO located here at the Altoona Blair county airport.

Altoona Flight Services, the local FBO, provides numerous services to the current EAS, Southern Airways. Over the past few years that Southern has been operating here they have transformed their operation into a smoother and reliable service. We at International Group, LLC, currently use the EAS to move some of our pilots and clients to and from Baltimore and Pittsburgh to connect with other flights. In the Beginning the service has some rough times and wasn't that reliable so we always had a back up plan. I can tell you from personal experience that the service has evolved into a better operation and its reliability has increased significantly. The only cancellations or delays that I can think of recently where I was personally affected were weather or airport related.

The Cessna Caravan is a great aircraft for the mission at hand. Going between the current destinations ATC doesn't allow the aircraft to climb above a certain altitude due to inbound restrictions to those major airports. When we fly our jet aircraft, we are held down to a low altitude to comply with the same inbound restrictions so getting an aircraft with an increased climb or speed performance doesn't really accomplish anything other than potentially increasing the operating costs. I hope this helps and if you have any questions feel free to contact me and I would be more than happy to help.

Regards,

Vincent J. Mojta
Director of Operations
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