



City Hall
208 North First Avenue
Alpena, Michigan 49707
www.alpena.mi.us

April 10, 2020

Mr. Michael Martin
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Michael,

This letter is the formal response of the City of Alpena to the Department's request for comments regarding the air carrier bids to provide Alpena Essential Air Service received April 02, 2020.

We are very grateful that the incumbent carrier, SkyWest Airlines, has submitted a bid to continue providing Delta branded regional jet service at our airport. We are further gratified that Boutique Air entered a bid for air service for our community.

The Boutique Air proposal of 24 non-stop flights to Detroit per week, using eight and nine seat turboprop aircraft, generated great interest and conversation. However, the SkyWest Airlines proposal offering 12 roundtrip flights per week non-stop to DTW, using RJ200 fifty seat jets has been an integral part of our success with increased enplanements in recent years, building on our future plans to be independent of EAS funding. Therefore, the SkyWest proposal is supported by the Mayor of Alpena, the Chairman of the Alpena County Board of Commissioners, the Chairman of the Alpena County Regional Airport Committee, the Airport Manager, the President of the Alpena Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Director of Economic Development.

This March we completed the construction of our new state of the art terminal building which includes a passenger loading ramp that will not integrate with the turboprop aircraft, and have plans to rehabilitate our main runway as well as replace the airfield lighting system. Grants and funding for Airport Improvement Projects (AIP) are based on enplanements, which again have shown an increase largely in part due to the quality service provided by SkyWest.

SkyWest is one of the largest regional airlines in the nation, consistently profitable and provides excellent customer service and reliable flight operations to Northeast Michigan. Furthermore, SkyWest provides Alpena with service to DTW under the Delta Air Lines brand and code, which is what our residents, businesses, and visitors have had for many years.

We again thank the Department of Transportation for working with us and for your continued service. We wholeheartedly endorse the SkyWest Airlines proposal and look forward to working with them well into the future.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew J. Waligora', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew J. Waligora
Mayor of Alpena