

Michael Gormas  
Essential Air Service  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Re: McGrath Essential Air Service

Dear Mr. Gormas:

The safety of our personnel is foremost to us in choosing transportation services. For 15 years we have relied on Alaska Air Transit to connect Tatalina LRRS and other bases to Anchorage. Their Pilatus PC-12 is a current generation design, with superior reliability and an excellent safety record worldwide. The Air Force uses the PC-12 for personnel transport under the designation U-28 (Draco). We also appreciate the large baggage of the Pilatus and high payload. Our people bring a lot of baggage and even sometimes personal freight. Relying on an older generation of aircraft with limited cargo capacity would be a step backwards.

I personally have found the PC-12 to be as rugged as it needs to be to work well in remote parts of Alaska, and very capable for hauling cargo with a door wide enough for full size pallets, while also being much faster and more comfortable than a Caravan due to the pressurized cabin. The pressurized cabin also contributes to safety, being able to fly higher over mountain passes and avoiding weather and turbulence.

Likewise AAT is dependable and provides excellent customer service. Their downtown location is particularly useful for us as it is close to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson. AAT provides a free shuttle between downtown and Anchorage International Airport. They pick up our inbound passengers just outside baggage claim, and deliver them right to the ticket counter of the outgoing airline.

AAT is already the Essential Service Carrier between Tatalina and McGrath, so extending them to Anchorage provides the possibility of more single plane service for our personnel. They have been approved for operating during the COVID pandemic, and have been the only certificated carrier to provide passenger service at McGrath. Based on our lengthy experience, we have full faith in AAT to provide outstanding Essential Service at the highest level of safety.

Sincerely,

Jason Robinson  
Airfield/Services Specialist  
ARCTEC Alaska