



Jan. 16, 2021

Ms. Brooke Chapman
Associate Director, Small Community Air Service Development Program
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20590

Docket: DOT-OST-2020-0231

Subject: Support of University Park Airport's 2020 Small Community Air Service Development Program Grant Application

Dear Ms. Chapman,

Please accept this letter as strong support from The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau and the Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre County for University Park Airport's (SCE) application for a 2020 Small Community Air Service Development Program grant. The grant is being sought in an effort to help secure direct American Airlines service from State College, PA to Charlotte-Douglas International Airport (CLT), a vital yet currently underserved Southeast hub.

The ability to efficiently and affordably travel to and from Centre County impacts education, business growth and tourism, all three of which play critical roles in powering our local economy. In fact, improving air service options has been identified by community, business and Penn State University leaders as essential to the region's continued economic recovery and growth. The issue is a collective priority for our respective organizations.

As American Airlines expressed in its grant support letter, we also see tremendous potential for University Park Airport usage and growth. Direct flight access to Charlotte, NC would be particularly welcomed by the strong Penn State alumni presence in North Carolina and the Southeast generally, as the university is a major driver of business and leisure travel to State College.

The awarding of a Small Community Air Service Development Grant is a necessary step in the process of potentially securing American Airlines service to CLT and improving access to new, key markets. We respectfully ask you to approve University Park Airport's application.

-more-

Our organizations are well positioned to promote and support this new route through our membership bases as well as to the entire county/region. Additionally, our organizations created and lead the Air Service Committee which fosters collaborative enhancements in our air service structure. This committee includes direct representation from the Airport Authority as well as Penn State University. Our collective financial and ongoing marketing support of this route is a worthwhile commitment for our community's future.

Sincerely,



Fritz Smith
President and CEO
The Happy Valley Adventure Bureau
*The official tourism promotion agency
for Centre County, PA*



Vern Squier, CCE, PaCCE
President and CEO
The Chamber of Business & Industry of Centre
County/Centre County Economic Development
Partnership