

Docket 05T-2009-0302

CARL LEVIN
MICHIGAN

RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2202
(202) 224-6221

COMMITTEES:
ARMED SERVICES
GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
SMALL BUSINESS
INTELLIGENCE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2202

November 17, 2009

Ms. Heideh Shahmoradi
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Governmental Affairs
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS
NOV 18 11:40 AM '09


Dear Ms. Shahmoradi:

I am writing regarding the U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) selection of SkyWest Airlines to service the Houghton County Memorial Airport, an Essential Air Service (EAS) airport.

Enclosed is a webmail that I received from a constituent who is concerned about the change in airline service. I would appreciate a response to the concerns raised and an explanation of how the U.S. DOT reached its decision on this particular airline. Your response can be directed to my aide, Elizabeth Reed, at my Escanaba office listed below.

Thank you for your time in this matter.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin

CL/er
Enclosure

STATE OFFICES

DETROIT
477 MICHIGAN AVENUE
SUITE 1860
DETROIT, MI 48226
(313) 226-6020

ESCANABA
524 LUDINGTON STREET
SUITE LL-103
ESCANABA, MI 49829
(906) 788-0082

GRAND RAPIDS
FEDERAL BUILDING
SUITE 720
110 MICHIGAN STREET, N.W.
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503
(616) 456-2831

LANSING
124 WEST ALLEGAN STREET
SUITE 1810
LANSING, MI 48833
(617) 377-1508

SAGINAW
ROOM 402
515 NORTH WASHINGTON AVENUE
SAGINAW, MI 48607
(989) 754-2494

TRAVERSE CITY
107 CASE STREET
SUITE E
TRAVERSE CITY, MI 49684
(231) 947-9589

WARREN
20500 VAN DYKE AVENUE
SUITE 208
WARREN, MI 48093
(586) 873-9148

cf_email agency

Regarding: agency

Agency: Department of Transportation

I am writing to ask your assistance in reversing the USDOT decision to replace Mesaba Airlines as the carrier at Houghton County Airport.

Our service will be degraded from three flights down to two flights daily.

We will have to fly to Chicago to make connections - who wants the hassle in Chicago? Minneapolis is an easy airport to get around in, especially with a tight connection.

I recently got stuck overnight in Minneapolis when I missed a Mesaba connection, but Northwest/Delta put me up in a hotel literally five minutes from the airport (I timed it). Can you see that ever happening in Chicago?

In addition, we cannot redeem our Northwest/Delta frequent flyer miles out of our local airport anymore. We will have to travel a considerable distance to some airport that is still serviced by Northwest/Delta. Why should we be inconvenienced and financially hurt by this decision? And if we do travel somewhere to use those miles, the census at Houghton County Airport goes down.

I await your response as to your action on this issue.