



Gogebic-Iron County Airport

GOGEBIC-IRON AIRPORT BOARD

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Dennis DeVany
 Essential Air Services Division, X-53
 DOT Office of Aviation Analysis, Room 6401
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Mr. DeVany,

As you are well aware, the Gogebic-Iron County Airport will once again be going through airline selection to fulfill the essential air service agreements. Over the past couple of years we have experienced several hardships in regard to our current air carrier. The current flight schedule for Great Lakes Airlines inhibits our traveling public from access to convenient, connecting flights out of Milwaukee. They have also exhibited several issues with flight crews, mechanical reliability, and continuity within their own operations and the Manistee-Milwaukee- Ironwood flights

We have been very fortunate to be chosen to receive the Small Community Air Service Grant for advertising but even with such an aggressive marketing campaign we have been unable to increase the ridership out of Ironwood. In fact, our boarding have substantially decreased since the onset of Great Lakes Airlines. I believe the main contributing factor to declines in ridership stems from poor flight schedules out of Ironwood. A supporting example to a favorable flight schedule could be Manistee Airport's ridership increases, I have watched as their passenger boarding have climbed due to their early morning departures and late evening arrivals.

I do realize that the current economic situation and the declining number of essential air service carriers is a contributing factor to your flexibility when considering air carriers, equipment, and flight schedules. We would like to stress the fact that our boarding have declined over 65 percent in the past two years and I would hope you would take flight schedules into consideration when publishing a request for proposals for Ironwood.

Sincerely,

Duane R. DuRay
 Airport Manager

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