

Jackie A. Walker
Clinton County Legislator, Area 8
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DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION



February 1, 2010

Mr. Dennis J. DeVany, Chief
 U.S. Department of Transportation
 Essential Air Service Division
 Office of Aviation Analysis
 West Building, 18th Floor
 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
 Washington DC 20590

Dear Mr. DeVany:

I am writing this letter in support of Cape Air. During my nine years as a Clinton County Legislator, I have witnessed two airlines here in Plattsburgh in the Essential Air Service (EAS) Program that have failed. We are now served successfully by Cape Air. Over the last two years, Cape Air has consistently increased enplanements and have overwhelming support from their ridership--the everyday taxpayer of Clinton County.

I represent Legislative Area 8 where the airport is located, and I have been a member of the Plattsburgh International Airport Committee (PIAC) since its inception. Until about two months ago, I had never heard of Colgan Pinnacle. At that time, Garry Douglas, Director of the Plattsburgh-North Country Chamber of Commerce, attended our PIAC meeting. During this meeting, he introduced the Committee members to Colgan, via a teleconference call. That is the only contact I have ever had with Colgan. Two weeks ago, Mr. Douglas told me personally that it has taken him three years to convince Colgan to come to Plattsburgh. During that conference call with Colgan, we asked about the Lake Clear stop. Colgan officials stated that Plattsburgh did not have enough enplanements without that stop. Two months later, do we?

Colgan has a history, easily accessible from the internet, of their proposals for other EAS contracts with low ticket prices that once awarded the contract, the prices become excessive. It is there in black and white. Colgan is also asking for approximately \$800,000 more than Cape Air for Essential Air Service to Plattsburgh. This request for more dollars to give us less flights at increased ticket prices and subsequently removing a successful airline from the EAS Program is unacceptable to me. Plattsburgh has the best EAS partner in our history. Ridership is increasing daily, consumers love Cape Air, and in our two year partnership with Cape Air, we have received no complaints.

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My last concern is that because of some uninformed community leaders, the integrity of the EAS Program is in jeopardy. EAS is to assist Plattsburgh residents. It is not for the residents of the metropolitan Montreal area. They are not in the program. When three out of the four Plattsburgh International Airport Committee members support Cape Air, the fourth undecided, perhaps it is because she is liaison to the Chamber, that speaks volumes. Colgan has shown very little interest in Plattsburgh.

Clinton County has a success story with Cape Air. Let's continue two more years. Perhaps they will grow us out of the EAS Program! Onward and upward!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie A. Walker". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jackie A. Walker
County Legislator, Area 8

JAW/mal