



The Voice of Small Community Air Service in Rural America
<http://www.regionalaviationpartners.org>

April 17, 2008

“Legislative Alert”

SENATOR BINGAMAN AND SENATOR SNOWE NEED YOUR HELP TO FUND EAS AND SCASDP FOR FY09!

Rural Air Service advocates **Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-NM)** and **Olympia Snowe (R-ME)** are once again stepping up to the plate, urging their colleagues on the *Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies* to support funding for commercial air service in small communities.

Senators Bingaman and Snowe are requesting the Subcommittee to:

- ➔ Fund the Essential Air Service Program (EAS) for FY09 at **\$127 million**;
- ➔ Fund the Small Community Air Service Development Program (SCASDP) for FY09 at **\$35 million**;
- ➔ Include a provision in the FY09 Transportation Appropriations Bill barring mandatory cost sharing as was included in the FY08 bill; and
- ➔ Include implementation of **fuel cost adjustments** through **Section 402 of Vision 100**.

As usual, the DOT’s budget proposes to once again (1) cut funding to the EAS program, jeopardizing air service in over 64 EAS communities, and (2) provide no funding for the SCASDP.

With record breaking fuel costs and the volatile aviation industry, it is critical that the Essential Air Service program is funded at the authorized level just to maintain existing air service to the current EAS communities.

The Appropriations Committees allocate funding for federal programs; we must let them and our federal elected officials know how vital the air service is to our communities.

WE MUST HAVE YOUR “ACTIVE” SUPPORT AND INPUT!

Contact your Senators’ Transportation LA by April 18 and ask that your Senators sign on and support Senators Bingaman and Snowe’s letter to the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, HUD and Related Agencies. This is critically important!

Contact us at if you have any questions and please keep us informed on your Senators’ responses.

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