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# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 27, 2012

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

It is my understanding that the Williamsport Regional Airport located in Williamsport, Pennsylvania has submitted an application to the Small Community Air Service Development Grant through the U.S. Department of Transportation. The purpose of this letter is to urge to give full and fair consideration to this proposal.

The Williamsport Regional Airport's \$500,000 grant request is matched by \$550,000 in local funding from several local area foundations and economic development groups. If awarded, funding would be used to assist the community in recruiting additional commercial air service to the region which would significantly enhance opportunities for economic growth in the north central Pennsylvania region. As you may know, Williamsport is now serving as a major service center supporting the Marcellus Shale natural gas exploration activity. I have been informed that over 100 energy mining companies and support businesses have already established facilities in the region. Increased air service would allow them to continue to grow and expand which in turn would help to create jobs and attract more employers to the Williamsport region.

Please include this letter in the official record of the application. Consistent with all applicable laws, rules and regulations, we also respectfully request that you keep me informed of the status of this grant application. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Robert P. Casey Jr.  
United States Senator