



City and Borough of Sitka

100 Lincoln Street Sitka, Alaska 99835

Coast Guard City, USA

November 9, 2016

Michael D. Gormas, Office of Aviation Analysis
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Order 2016-9-14, Essential Air Service (EAS) at Cordova, Gustavus, Petersburg, Wrangell,
and/or Yakutat, Alaska – OST-1998-4899

Dear Mr. Gormas:

This letter is to express strong support for the selection of Alaska Airlines to continue providing essential air service to our community and Southeast Alaska with 737-jet aircraft.

Alaska's service connects Southeast Alaska passengers to one or more major communities of interest, with single-plane service to Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan or Seattle. From these hubs, our community can access the airline's extensive route system and benefit from its marketing relationships with other carriers. The 737-jet passenger aircraft, which Alaska Airlines will continue using on this route, provides freight and mail capacity that other carriers simply cannot provide.

Since we are not connected to a road system, having safe, scheduled air service is vital to keeping our communities connected. Further, Alaska Airlines aircraft are equipped with Required Navigation Performance Technology, which enables the airline to reliably access Southeast Alaska's airports during inclement weather, thus reducing diversions and cancellations and, in turn, enabling people and products to dependably reach the community.

Simply put, Alaska Airlines' service is critical to the economic wellbeing of our community and we support their application to provide Essential Air Service to Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

Mark Gorman
Municipal Administrator