

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to support the Bismarck Airport in their application for the Small Community Air Service Grant. Bismarck-Mandan is a growing community that seeks to enhance the air travel options for the community and the region. Many publications rank Bismarck-Mandan as one of the best places to live and work for the following reasons:

- Bismarck-Mandan continues to lead the nation with one of the lowest unemployment rates for a metro region with less than 3.5% unemployment.
- The value of homes continues to remain steady. (Avg. Sale Price in June 2010 \$173,871) with 609 homes sold through June of 2010
- The number of single-family home permits issued through June of 2010 was 256. This compares to just 115 permits issued through June of 2009.
- The community is transitioning to a regional hub that provides a variety of services to the surrounding region. From recreational and shopping opportunities to health care, the region is utilizing the community in new ways.

With the growth occurring in the community and the region, there is a growing demand for additional air service. Utilization of the Bismarck Airport continues to grow. The number of passengers utilizing the airport has increased steadily over the last five years. Through June of 2010, over 94,000 passengers utilized the airport. This compares to about 88,000 the previous year. In particular, business and leisure travelers will see a benefit from more flights offering service to east or southbound destinations.

I urge you to give the Bismarck Airport's grant application every consideration. The Bismarck Airport's modern facility and outstanding staff combined with the areas continued growth make Bismarck a prime recipient of a grant of this nature.

Thank you for your consideration of helping our dynamic community continues growing and remaining one of the best in the country.

Sincerely,