

# United States Senate

April 25, 2016

Brooke Chapman, Associate Director  
Small Community Air Service Development Program  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Ms. Chapman:

I fully support the Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD), Docket DOT-OST-2016-0037, grant application submitted by the Missoula County Airport Authority. The leadership at the Missoula County Airport Authority has a long history of supporting air service development through both traditional and non-traditional means. They have been very successful at increasing the number of airlines and direct city flights into the City of Missoula. Even with those efforts and the efforts of other airports in the state, Montana remains one of the last major underserved areas of the United States.

If successful, this grant will help to facilitate new direct air service into a hub in the South Central United States, benefiting the consumers of air travel. A smaller portion of grant funds will be used to advertise and market the new air service. Community financial support is being solicited to help provide the necessary matching funds. The community feels so strongly about obtaining this service that they are increasing their financial commitment for this grant round. Based on strong advanced bookings for service to Dallas/Fort Worth, American Airlines has committed to write a letter of support for the Missoula County Airport Authority's SCASD grant application.

Having new direct air service provides Montana citizens the opportunity to access more destinations with fewer connections, and at lower fares. Just as importantly, this new direct air service provides travelers from the southern half of the United States better access to Montana.

The economic benefits of access to a new market accrue not only to the consumers of air travel, but also to the local, regional, and state economies. Access to a new hub in the South Central United States will present numerous growth opportunities in commerce and tourism, the second largest industry in the State of Montana.

I trust you will give this grant proposal fair and thoughtful consideration.

Sincerely,



Steve Daines  
United States Senator