



South Dakota Department of Transportation  
Aeronautics Commission  
700 East Broadway Avenue  
Pierre, South Dakota 57501

11 January 2021

Commissioners:

I am writing to request your support for our application for a Small Community Air Service Development (SCASD) Grant. As you may be aware Huron lost its Air Service in 2016 due to exceeding the \$1,000 per passenger cap on eligibility. At the time we were being served by Great Lakes Airlines who had gone to 9 passenger aircraft in an attempt to survive in the wake of the 1500 hour pilot rule. I think everyone in South Dakota was well aware of the poor quality of service Great Lakes was giving at that time to us and Watertown and Pierre, which had already eroded Boardings to an all-time low. However, that in and of itself was not as detrimental as the 9 passenger airplane that when connected with Pierre made it impossible for us to Board enough passengers to keep under the limit.

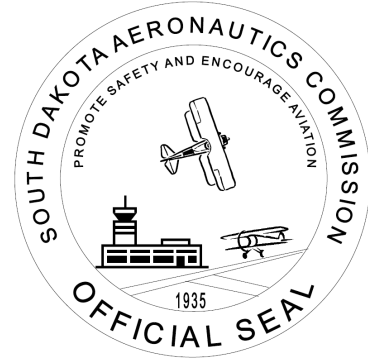
We have tried everything so far to get USDOT to return our eligibility due to the circumstances of the loss making it impossible for us to get under the limit. The application for a return to eligibility that we submitted earlier was denied due to the fact that the rule did not include an avenue for appeal. The fact that we were denied the chance to use the avenues set forth by Congress to try to stay in the program was not even addressed as it should have been. That was a violation of the law as it were and did not give us the chances set forth to avoid termination.

I hope that you will support our application for the SCASD grant as it may be our last chance to regain something essential to our community's future. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L. Cooper", is written over the typed name.

Larry Cooper  
Manager  
Huron Regional Airport

January 21, 2021



Brooke Chapman  
Associate Director, Small Community Program  
Office of Aviation Analysis  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE W86-310  
Washington, DC 20590

**Subject: Small Community Air Service Development Program  
DOT-OST-2020-0231  
City of Huron, SD – Huron Regional Airport**

Dear Ms. Chapman;

The South Dakota Aeronautics Commission strongly supports the air service proposal detailed in the City of Huron's Small Community Air Service Development Program grant application. If approved, this grant will give new air service for Huron residents to Minneapolis / St Paul. Like many businesses and government agencies in central South Dakota and across the nation, our business depends on access to air service to continue to prosper.

For many years, Huron has been without commercial air service. We strongly believe this community can support flights to and from Minneapolis / St Paul.

As you evaluate the merits of this application, I encourage you to consider how critically important air service is to the Huron community. The Airport has forged strong ties with the business community to support air service. We appreciate the opportunity to expand that partnership to include the US Department of Transportation through the Small Community Air Service Development Program. We are pleased to have the opportunity to support this grant application.

Sincerely,

Eric Odenbach  
Chairman  
South Dakota Aeronautics Commission