

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 26, 2020

Secretary Elaine Chao
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Application for Alternate EAS Grant (Crescent City, CA. DOT-OST-1997-2649)

Dear Secretary Chao,

We write to support the Border Coast Regional Airport Authority's (BCRAA) recent application for an Alternate Essential Air Service (AEAS) grant. The airport in Crescent City, California, that serves both northern California and southern Oregon is an important economic component of these communities and we support BCRAA's request for the continuation of service provided under the current AEAS grant to Contour Airlines.

The Essential Air Service (EAS) program has helped sustain vital passenger flights in Crescent City since 2008, first via SkyWest, then briefly through PenAir, and now by Contour. Crescent City is a model EAS community with high passenger demand, relatively low subsidies, and is more than a 6-hour drive to a medium-hub airport.

In requesting the AEAS grant, the BCRAA also requests that the Department reject the conventional EAS proposal from Boutique Air to provide service at Crescent City. We also support that request given the community's clear preference for continuing service via Contour as described in their recent letters to the EAS program.

The AEAS request from the BCRAA provides 20 percent more seat capacity while saving the Department of Transportation more than \$100,000 over four years as compared to the least expensive conventional EAS proposal. It also allows the communities to continue to benefit from the most reliable service they have yet enjoyed and would provide four years of certainty to the communities and the carrier, allowing for a long-term relationship to develop and grow.

Please support the BCRAA's AEAS application and allow the Del Norte County, California, and Curry County, Oregon, communities to continue to benefit from the air service they appreciate.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Member of Congress



Peter DeFazio
Member of Congress