

# United States Senate

September 13, 2024

Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

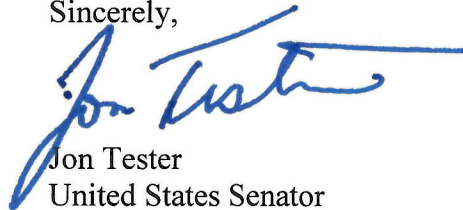
Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I write to express my strong support for SkyWest's application for funding from the Essential Air Service Program (EAS), and I respectfully request its swift approval. SkyWest recently applied to expand air service in Butte with flights to Denver and Salt Lake City, with at least six round-trip flights to Denver a week and at least seven round-trip flights to Salt Lake City a week. I support this important proposal to bring these flights to Butte because expanding air service is vital to Butte's ability to grow and attract businesses, lower the cost of traveling and keep families connected.

The SkyWest application offers flights to two major airline hubs, which will greatly improve community members' ability to access the national air service network. Too often rural communities are not afforded the same opportunities for air service as urban counterparts. That's why I worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to appropriate funds to EAS. Opportunities like SkyWest's application are exactly what these funds are intended to accomplish.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester  
United States Senator