November 21, 2014

Mr. Kevin Schlemmer, Chief, EAS Division
Office of Aviation Analysis
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

Sent via email to: EAS@dot.gov

Re: Continuation of Alaska Airlines’ Essential Air Service at Cordova, Gustavus, Petersburg, Wrangell, and Yakutat, Alaska, Docket OST-1998-4899

Dear Mr. Schlemmer,

The mission of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce (Alaska Chamber) is to promote a positive business environment in Alaska and in turn the United States. The Alaska Chamber represents hundreds of businesses, manufacturers and local chambers from across Alaska. The purpose of this letter is to express our support for the selection of Alaska Airlines to continue to provide essential air service to Cordova, Gustavus, Petersburg, Wrangell and Yakutat, Alaska.

Alaska’s service connects Southeast Alaska passengers to one or more major Alaska communities, with single-plane service to Anchorage, Juneau, Ketchikan or Seattle. From these hubs, Alaskans can access the airline’s extensive route system and benefit from its marketing relationships with other carriers. The passenger and cargo aircraft, which Alaska Airlines proposes to continue using on this route, provides freight, mail and cargo capacity that other do not provide.

Further, Alaska Airlines aircraft are equipped with Required Navigation Performance Technology, which enables the airline to reliably access airport in these Alaska communities during inclement weather, thus reducing diversions and cancellations and, in turn, enabling people and products to dependably reach the community.

The Alaska Chamber believes that Alaska Airlines’ service is critical to the economic well being of these Southeast Alaska communities and we support their application to provide Essential Air Service to Southeast Alaska.

Sincerely,

Rachael Petro
President and CEO