

From: allison harte <aaharte@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Gormas, Michael (OST) <michael.gormas@dot.gov>
Subject: Watertown EAS

You don't often get email from aaharte@hotmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the Department of Transportation (DOT). Do not click on links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To Whom It May Concern,

As I reflect on the recent council meeting I attended, I am deeply disappointed in our city's decision to vote for Skywest as Watertown's air service provider. Our city has always valued "shop local," and while Denver Air Connection may not be headquartered here, they truly embody that principle through their strong commitment to our community.

Denver Air Connection has been a dedicated community partner, supporting Watertown in ways that go far beyond air service. They have:

- Flown in to participate in our Chamber Golf Tournament
- Donated countless round-trip tickets to families in need, including a family whose son was battling cancer and receiving treatment in Denver
- Supported our local Make-A-Wish chapter
- Contributed multiple round-trip airline tickets to local charities, including LAKE (Lake Area Kidney Endowment)
- Sponsored Studio 212, allowing employees and crew members an opportunity to enjoy local entertainment
- Invested in Lake Area Technical College's Aviation Program, helping build the next generation of aviation professionals

Will Skywest offer this same level of community support?

At the meeting, it was stated that Skywest is a large corporate entity with 17,000 employees and 5,000 pilots. A company of that size simply cannot offer the same personal commitment to its employees or the communities it serves. Denver Air takes great pride in its employees, passengers, and the cities they serve. They demonstrate this through:

- Providing meals to passengers during delays due to mechanical issues or weather
- Offering comprehensive benefits (health, dental, vision, and 401K) for both full-time and part-time employees
- Providing competitive wages that strengthen our growing community

Can Skywest promise this same level of care and dedication to our city, passengers, and local businesses?

I understand that our city wants to grow, and I fully support that. But Denver Air is a small company looking to grow alongside us—why not work together?

The concerns raised at the meeting about a functional app, 24/7 customer service, and an early morning flight to Chicago are valid, but they are also fixable. I believe Denver Air is already working on these improvements and would be willing to implement these changes to meet our city's needs.

I urge the DOT to reconsider Denver Air Connection for its long-term value to our community. They are not just an airline but a true partner in the success of our community. Let's choose a provider that truly cares about Watertown—not just as another destination, but as a home.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Allison