

From: Nikki Gudridge <nicolegudridge@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 14, 2025 12:06 PM
To: Gormas, Michael (OST) <michael.gormas@dot.gov>
Subject: Watertown, SD and Denver Air Connections

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Dear Mr. Gormas,

I am writing to formally request that the Department of Transportation reconsider the decision to remove Denver Air Connections as the primary airline serving Watertown, SD, in favor of SkyWest. As a parent of a player on the Watertown Shamrocks hockey team, my family travels from Denver to Watertown each week to watch my son play. Reliable air service is critical not only for my family but for many others in the community who depend on consistent and accessible transportation.

Denver Air Connections has provided exceptional service as well as being friendly, accommodating, and dependable. In contrast, SkyWest previously served Watertown and was not a reliable option. Many in the community remember frequent cancellations and inconsistent service that made travel unpredictable and frustrating. Returning to an airline with a history of unreliability would be a step backward for those of us who depend on this route for sports, business, medical needs, and family visits.

I kindly ask that you post my letter to the docket as a demonstration of the community's disagreement with this decision. I urge the DOT to prioritize the needs of Watertown travelers and reconsider the removing Denver Air Connections in favor of a proven, reliable airline that best serves the community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to ensuring accessible and dependable transportation for small communities.

Sincerely,
Nicole Gudridge

Dear Watertown City Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern over the potential elimination of Denver Air Connections as the primary airline serving Watertown. This decision will have a significant negative impact on many families, including mine, who rely on this airline for transportation.

My son plays for the Watertown Shamrocks hockey team, and like many other families whose sons play for the Shamrocks, we depend on Denver Air Connections for reliable travel to and from Watertown. The convenience, affordability, and excellent service they provide have made travel seamless, allowing players to travel to and from Watertown easily and their families to fly into town rather than stress over transportation logistics.

Beyond just hockey, Denver Air Connections serves as a vital link for many residents who need dependable air travel for business, medical appointments, and visiting family. Their friendly and accommodating service has made them a favorite among travelers, and replacing them with fewer or less reliable options would create unnecessary hardship for our community.

I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision and explore options to retain Denver Air Connections or add another airline to ensure continued, accessible air travel for Watertown residents. The impact of losing this airline will be felt across multiple sectors, and I ask that you prioritize the needs of the families, businesses, and individuals who rely on this essential service.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your commitment to serving the community and hope that you will take action to maintain strong air travel options in Watertown.

Sincerely,
Nicole Gudridge