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Greetings,

I have reviewed the proposal from Alaska Airlines to provide Essential Air Service to Gustavus, Alaska for summer service in 2025 and 2026.

Alaska Airlines has provided Gustavus and Glacier Bay with excellent service to our community for many years and we are pleased to continue that important relationship. Our summer season is greatly enhanced by this service, allowing easy access to Gustavus and Glacier Bay National Park.

Over the many years of receiving Essential Air Service, the seasonal schedule, in terms of number of weeks of service, has been erratic; each year leaves us wondering how many weeks of service we might see each year.

For the next two years, if this proposal is accepted, we will receive twelve weeks of service each year. This is simply not a long enough season to accommodate the needs of travelers to and from Gustavus. Past history has shown that a thirteen-week season is a bare minimum to meet need. Ideally, a fourteen-week schedule would accommodate the full tourist season which generally runs from Memorial Day Weekend (a full two weeks prior to proposed start date) and ends Labor Day weekend.

Because the RFP for providing Essential Air Service states that service for Gustavus is "...7 weekly nonstop round trips to Juneau for the peak summer seasons." it seems open to interpretation as to what that season actually is. Since our summer season is, and historically has been, fourteen weeks, a fourteen-week service should be required to meet the definition of essential air service.

Thank you for your consideration,

Sally McLaughlin

Sally McLaughlin
Mayor, City of Gustavus, AK