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U.S. Department of Transportation Selects SkyWest Airlines as Air Carrier for North Central West Virginia Airport

Bridgeport, West Virginia: The Benedum Airport Authority is thrilled to announce the U.S. Department of Transportation selected SkyWest Airlines to be North Central West Virginia Airport's new Essential Air Service carrier. SkyWest Airlines will now provide daily flights to both Washington Dulles (IAD) and Chicago O'Hare (ORD), operating as United Express. Flights will be provided on the 50-seat Canadair Regional jet operated by one of the most reliable regional air carriers in the nation.

"The decision by the Department of Transportation to select SkyWest for our community is a welcome one," said Benedum Airport Authority Chair, Ron Watson. "Our region will finally have access to not just one, but two great hubs on a carrier deeply respected across the country. We look forward to seeing United Express branded aircraft on the ground shortly."

Headquartered in St. George, Utah, SkyWest operates in partnership with the world's largest network carriers including United Airlines. SkyWest service at the North Central West Virginia Airport will be marketed as United Express providing full access to the United network including baggage transfers and seamless bookings complete with connections around the world.

"This is an extremely exciting time for our region. CKB staff will work diligently with SkyWest to select an inaugural start date for the service which minimizes the delay," said Airport Director, Rick Rock. "Now that we have the service, we invite everyone to try it out. We know once you experience the aircraft, the reliability SkyWest provides, and the easy connectivity to the United network, there will not be a question as to which airport to fly from."

An official start date for the new service is expected in the coming weeks and will be announced on the airport website, www.flyckb.com.

"We're pleased that SkyWest was selected by CKB and the DOT to provide quality, reliable service as United Express," said Greg Atkin, SkyWest's Managing Director of Market Development. "We look forward to providing CKB travelers the comfort and convenience of the 50-seat jet, with access to these key United hubs and hundreds of destinations beyond."

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About SkyWest Airlines:

As a leading air service provider offering global access to millions of people each month, SkyWest partners with the world's largest network carriers. With a fleet of 404 aircraft, SkyWest's more than 12,500 aviation professionals operate more than 2,100 flights each day to 234 destinations throughout North America. SkyWest is known for its industry leading workforce, exceptional leadership team, and continued solid operational and economic performance. For more information visit www.skywest.com.

About North Central West Virginia Airport: The North Central West Virginia Airport is a public airport located just east of Bridgeport, West Virginia. The Airport is operated by the Benedum Airport Authority and is currently served by one commercial airline, Allegiant Air, with SkyWest Airlines dba United Express commencing service shortly. The Airport is a significant economic engine for the region. For more information on the airport visit www.flyckb.com.

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