

(THURSDAY, Sept. 13) -- The Vermont Congressional Delegation - Sen. Patrick Leahy, Sen. Bernie Sanders, and Rep. Peter Welch -- announced Thursday that Cape Air of Hyannis, Mass., has been granted a federal subsidy that will allow commercial air service to continue at the Rutland Southern Vermont Regional Airport.

Cape Air will provide three daily nonstop round trips between Rutland and Boston, using 9-passenger Cessna 402 aircraft. Cape Air operates under code-share partnerships with Continental Airlines and JetBlue Airways.

"This is timely news for Rutland and a good day for our local economy," said Leahy. "The airport is a valued transportation link for southern and central Vermont, and keeping air service in Rutland is important to so many facets of our economy. I am proud to support the airport infrastructure improvements in Rutland and the federal Essential Air Service program, which together help bolster passenger air service in the region."

"This is great news for Rutland. Air service is an important economic and tourist link for southern Vermont," said Sanders. "Not only is it an economic asset for the area, it also helps connect the people of southern Vermont with the rest of the nation and the world."

Welch said, "This continued air service is welcomed news for Rutland County, the region, and our state. Commercial air service provided at this airport is an important part of the region's transportation and economic vitality."

According to the terms of the service order issued Thursday by the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT), Cape Air will be awarded a two-year Essential Air Service (EAS) subsidy to continue the service for an annual payment of \$839,746. Under current law, if the annual subsidy exceeds the \$200 per passenger subsidy cap, the agency could terminate the subsidy.