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Airlift Northwest is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.

September 20, 2007

To: All EMS Agencies and Hospitals in Central Washington

Airlift Northwest has decided to cease fixed-wing operations at its base in Wenatchee as of October 2007. We made this decision after an extensive review of trends in the last few years and the changing needs in the region. With fixed-wing demand declining in the region and our aircraft nearing the need for replacement, our current operating model has become increasingly challenged.

At the same time, the tremendous growth and changing needs in the region may well be better served with a medical helicopter. As such, we are conducting a feasibility study of the potential for a new rotary base for the region to go in service in 2008.

We want to assure you that our commitment to Central Washington remains strong. We will continue to serve the region with a Learjet from Seattle at **no additional charge** compared to our current fees for the turboprop now in Wenatchee. In addition, with increased speed and quicker launch times, the Learjet from Seattle has similar response times to most areas of the region. We have included a map of Learjet flight times to Central Washington.

We currently use the Seattle Learjet to provide all neonatal and backup flights in the region with response times that compare favorably to our Wenatchee base. We will also continue to serve the region with helicopter service from our four bases in Western Washington; they already provide 15% of our flights in the area, and recent additions to our fleet will expand our ability to serve the area.

Shawn Ottley will continue to serve as our Wenatchee base manager during this time of transition and is playing a key role in evaluating and planning for a potential rotary-wing base in the region. Please feel free to contact Shawn with any questions, comments or concerns you might have. You can reach him at (509) 679-0657 or via e-mail at shawn.ottley@airliftnw.org. The Wenatchee base will also continue to provide clinical education in Central Washington.

Our initial review of data and feedback from the region about a potential helicopter base has been very positive, and we very much appreciate the support that has been expressed. For any such program to be successful, we believe it needs to be a region-wide collaborative effort that is built from the ground up to meet the unique needs of Central Washington. We would like every hospital and EMS agency in the region — and any other interested organization — to be a part of evaluating the potential for a helicopter and the implementation to follow. Please contact Shawn or me directly about joining this important effort. Input, guidance and support from stakeholders will be critical to its success.

We realize this change will be of concern to many in the region, and we want to apologize for any inconvenience or service issues that may arise. We are committed to mitigating any potential impact and continuing to serve the region with safe, rapid and reliable critical care transport services, as we have for 25 years.

If we can provide any further information for you or your staff, please do not hesitate to contact us. We would also welcome the opportunity to meet with you to review in more detail the many factors that we considered in this decision, our strategies for continuing to serve the region, and our process for evaluating the potential for an air medical helicopter dedicated to Central Washington.

If you have any questions about this or any other matter, please feel free to contact me directly at (206) 521-1593 or by e-mail at stephen.lewis@airliftnw.org. Thank you for your support and the privilege of serving you and your community.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Lewis
Chief Executive Officer

Enclosure: Central Washington Learjet Flight Times Map