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Mr. Richard Parker, Convener  
UCONN School of Law  
55 Elizabeth St.  
Hartford, CT 06105

RE: DOT-OST- 2015-0246, Department of Transportation negotiated rulemaking proposal

Mr. Parker:

I am writing to submit our nonprofit as an ideal candidate for full participation in the present negotiated rulemaking proposal.

Psychiatric Service Dog Partners (PSDP) is in many ways the successor organization to the group cited in the first footnote of the present ACAA negotiated rulemaking (Reg Neg) proposal (that group was Psychiatric Service Dog *Society*). As such, we have fostered an enduring and vested interest in rectifying and refining some of the issues with the current incarnation of the ACAA regulations. We would welcome the opportunity to bring our unique expertise to bear in the proposed Reg Neg.

PSDP is a peer advocacy group representing primarily the interests of those with psychiatric disabilities who take an active role in their recovery through the use of a service dog. However, we have routinely taken up the broader mantle of general service dog user advocacy—irrespective of the type of the mitigated disabilities—as there is sometimes a lack of either participation, experience, or requisite foresight in this sparsely populated field. In this capacity, we have influentially advised legislators, regulators, field administrators, and businesses at local, state, and federal levels. For highlights of our activities, please refer to the advocacy portion of our website:

<http://www.psychdogpartners.org/board-of-directors/board-activities/advocacy>

In all advocacy matters, as our record reflects, we are especially keen to see systems in place that are both practicable and fair for all parties involved. This includes respecting and justly balancing the interests of service dog users, others with disabilities who are not service dog users (including emotional support animal users), business employees, security personnel, and members of the general public.

We look forward to a dialogue that will honor the values we know we share with the DOT, the TSA, airline industry personnel, conscientious members of the public, and our sister advocacy groups. PSDP's community and leaders have been optimistically waiting for this opportunity to take flight for years—we have actively developed our resources and collective wisdom in the years since our predecessor organization filed its DOT petition—and we thank you and the DOT for getting the engines firing again!

Warm and sincere regards,

Veronica Morris, PhD  
President & Executive Director

**Psychiatric Service Dogs Partners' purpose is to promote the mental health of people using service dogs for psychiatric disabilities by educating, advocating, providing expertise, facilitating peer support, and promoting responsible service dog training and handling.**