

Schumer presses for local Fed Ex hub

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PLATTSBURGH — U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer is urging Federal Express to consider establishing a hub at Plattsburgh International Airport for processing and shipping trans-border transactions.

Schumer (D-Brooklyn) is also asking Fed Ex to consider donating an old Boeing 727-200 aircraft to the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute for student training.

“With its location along the Canadian border, Plattsburgh International Airport is a natural choice for Fed Ex to set up a trans-border shipping hub,” Schumer said.

“This is a golden opportunity for Fed Ex to take advantage of the state-of-the-art facilities that the airport has to offer and tap into the skilled aeronautic workforce graduating from the Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute.

“The addition of a Boeing aircraft that can be used to enhance the training program at PAI will ensure that the institute continues to produce some of the best technicians in the field and ensure that Plattsburgh will be able to meet Fed Ex’s needs.”

In a personal letter to Frederick W. Smith, chairman, president and chief executive officer of Fed Ex, Schumer wrote, “Establishing a presence in Plattsburgh and having a true Boeing aircraft at PAI holds great promise for your company and will ensure that there is a facility capable of producing the best technicians possible.

“I would urge personnel from Fed Ex to visit the site to further understand the value the airport, as well as the region’s highly skilled workforce, could bring to your company.”

The \$39 million airport opened at the former Plattsburgh Air Force Base last month.

County leaders are trying to recruit a passenger-service airline, as well as cargo and other shipping companies.

Schumer visited the new airport in May as it was preparing to open and pledged support in landing tenants.

Plattsburgh Aeronautical Institute is slated to open in fall 2008.

Clinton County Legislator Robert Heins (R-Area 10, City of Plattsburgh), who chairs the county’s Airport Committee, said Schumer’s efforts to land Fed Ex are more than welcome.

“To get a company in here like Fed Ex would be fantastic,” Heins said.

“The more planes we get flying in and out of here means more gas we pump and more people to work here and better opportunities for more economic development.”

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