



*Association of Professional Flight Attendants*

*Office of the President*

December 12, 2006

The Honorable Mary Peters  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

RE: Docket 2006-25275

Dear Madame Secretary:

On behalf of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA), representing the 20,000 Flight Attendants at American Airlines (AA), I am writing to express my strong support for the amended application by American Airlines to initiate service between Dallas/Fort Worth International Airport (DFW) and Beijing, China (PEK), effective March 25, 2007, with a through flight outbound and nonstop service on the return. If awarded, this flight would be the only route authority opening China directly to the southern U.S. markets. American Airlines' request is, without a doubt, in the best interest of the traveling public originating from points in the Southwest, as well as the 73,000 AA employees who are working hard to return our airline to sustained profitability.

As you know, this revision has been necessitated due to unsuccessful attempts to resolve extended long-range flying work rules in the AA pilots' Bargaining Agreement. Due to current active Section Six bargaining in accordance with the Railway Labor Act, our pilots and management could reach an agreement in the future that would allow nonstop service from Dallas Fort Worth to Beijing. AA's request to alter its previous application certainly benefits the southwestern part of the United States until extended long-range flying is agreed to in accordance with the Allied Pilots Association's contract with American Airlines.

As you know, the only U.S. gateways to China today originate from Newark, Chicago, and San Francisco. As a result, consumers in the South are in need of the structure that AA's strong route system can provide. The Southwest options AA offers from DFW to Beijing via ORD with nonstop service on the return would generate a whole new global consumer market between the U.S. and China.

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This Southwest gateway will benefit both the North Texas region and the communities supported by DFW – stimulating job growth, promoting new and existing businesses, and increasing U.S. - China cultural ties and tourism opportunities. At DFW, American operates one of the largest connecting hubs in the world, with almost 800 daily nonstop flights to more than 150 cities throughout the United States.

Given this extensive geographical reach of employment and consumer benefits, including the commercial air travelers and businesses in our community, APFA urges the Department to grant American's application for the DFW-PEK route.

Thank you for your consideration of this very important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Tommie L. Hutto-Blake", followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Tommie L. Hutto-Blake