



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Office of the President

October 29, 2009

The Honorable Ray LaHood
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Docket No.: DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the 18,000 Flight Attendants represented at American Airlines, the APFA has conducted an in-depth review of the proposed **oneworld** alliance of our employer with British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian Airlines. Based on the evidence we have gathered, we have declared our support for this alliance and for granting the anti-trust immunity necessary to make it possible.

In addition to reviewing the particulars of the application for anti-trust immunity currently before the Department of Transportation and under review in Europe, our due diligence took into account the results experienced by airlines that have already entered into such alliances.

In each of these cases, we find that the impact on domestic job growth and revenue have been overwhelmingly positive. Over the past five years, transatlantic capacity grew significantly more for carriers in other alliances compared to American Airlines. This puts American at an unfair competitive disadvantage. If granted the requested anti-trust immunity, we anticipate that similar progress for American Airlines and its partners would result from the proposed **oneworld** alliance.

Once global economies begin to recover and people begin to travel again, the **oneworld** alliance will allow American Airlines and its partners to be well positioned to compete in the international marketplace.

Given the sacrifices that our members have made since the downturn in the airline industry induced by the tragedy of 9/11, and the constraints on wage growth that have ensued ever since, it is extremely important that our members have access to the new opportunities posed by **oneworld** alliances. Indeed, denying these opportunities to American Airlines and its employees when they have been granted to other airlines would unfairly tilt the competitive landscape in which all carriers operate.

Therefore, the Department of Transportation should grant the application for anti-trust immunity as filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian Airlines.

Sincerely,

Laura R. Glading
President, APFA

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Commissioner Neelie Kroes
Commissioner for Competition
European Commission
DG Competition
Rue Joseph II 70
100 Bruxelles, Belgium

Case No.: 39.596 (BA/AA/IB)

Dear Commissioner Kroes:

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Therefore, we strongly encourage the European Commission to find that the plan for increased cooperation between American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian does not violate the competition laws of the European Union.

Sincerely,

Laura Glading
President, APFA

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