



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

Office of the President

July 17, 2013

The Honorable Michael Grimm
512 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Grimm:

Thank you for your continued support of collective bargaining rights and airline unions in particular. You and your staff are among the most helpful members of your conference and the Association of Professional Flight Attendants deeply appreciates your willingness to reach across the aisle in an effort to help our members and other unionized workforces. Your amendment to the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 (HR 2591) is very important to the more than 16,000 Flight Attendants at American Airlines and our brothers and sisters throughout the company, and I write you today to offer the APFA's full support.

As you know, American Airlines employees will receive a share of the new American Airlines' equity upon emergence from bankruptcy. For many, this equity claim will represent a significant amount of money which some of our members would prefer to contribute directly to their retirement savings. Under current law, airline employees may contribute up to 90 percent of the amount they receive in an airline's bankruptcy to an individual retirement account which effectively shelters that money from income taxation. The opportunity to do that was available to employees at Delta, Northwest, United, and US Airways and, indeed, many of our colleagues at those carriers availed themselves of the option. Unfortunately, the current statute states that such contributions must have been made by April 15, 2013, precluding American's workers from taking advantage of the law.

Your legislation will afford American's employees – the backbone of the once and future proud airline – with fair tax treatment. By extending the rollover deadline, APFA members will be treated fairly not only vis-à-vis workgroups at other carriers, but also in reflection of the significant sacrifices our members have made over the years in order to make American Airlines strong and competitive. It has certainly been a difficult decade for the aviation industry and for our company in particular but better days are on the horizon and your amendment will help guarantee their arrival.

Thank you for your leadership. I look forward to working with you to enact this important legislation.

Very Sincerely,

Laura Glading
President, APFA

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