



Association of Professional Flight Attendants

*Proudly Representing the **Flight Attendants** of American Airlines*

Office of the President

February 27, 2013

The Honorable Spencer Bachus
2246 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Bachus:

On February 14, 2013, the management of American Airlines and US Airways announced their intention to merge the two companies to form the world's largest airline. Employees of both airlines welcomed the news with great excitement. As the president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, representing over 16,000 flight attendants at American, I can say that our workgroup is very much looking forward to the day our operations are combined. The merger is good news not only for employees, but also for the company, its investors, the commercial aviation industry, and the flying public.

At this time last year, American's three major unions representing flight attendants (APFA), ground workers (TWU), and pilots (APA) were locked in tense contract negotiations with our bankrupt carrier. Under Section 1113 of the U.S. Bankruptcy code, the debtor may throw out its labor agreements and impose new contracts as a part of the restructuring process. American had proposed furloughing over 2,000 flight attendants, slashing our pay and benefits, terminating our pensions, and stripping away most of the protective provisions in our contract. As American's unions desperately negotiated against such deep cuts, we were approached by the management team of US Airways with a strategic alternative to American's standalone plan of reorganization. We listened to what they had to say and we liked what we heard.

US Airways' plan to merge its operations with American's creates a much more robust network. The combined company will allow American to once again compete nationwide. Additionally, the new American will strengthen service to Europe and South America. With a fleet, product, and network that rival those of Delta and United, American will break the duopoly currently controlling our industry and give consumers another strong option for air travel within the United States and beyond.

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American's labor unions immediately recognized the value in the merger plan. As a viable third option for business and leisure travel, American will generate the revenues necessary to sustain industry-rate contracts for the employees of both carriers. Moreover, not a single flight attendant will be furloughed as a result of the merger. The unionized employees at American want our company to succeed. That is why we support the merger and why we worked together to effect it.

Throughout our company's bankruptcy and while we pursued the US Airways plan in particular, the employees at American Airlines had a strong ally in the federal government. The Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, under the strong and visionary leadership of Director Josh Gotbaum, fought to protect American's workers and America's taxpayers. As a member of the unsecured creditors' committee, the PBGC worked alongside American's labor unions to ensure that the company's costly pension liabilities would not become the government's burden. Furthermore, the PBGC staff understood that the merger would provide long-term stability to employees' jobs, compensation, and benefits and were instrumental in bringing that plan to fruition. The APFA is extremely grateful for their commitment and perseverance.

While we know the path forward will be challenging, APFA believes the benefits the new American will provide to the traveling public, our colleagues, and our membership are well worth the tremendous effort that merging these two carriers will require. I hope that you can share in our enthusiasm and optimism for the future of our company and our careers. Thank you for your support and we look forward to seeing you on board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura R. Glading". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Laura Glading
President, APFA