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**Flight Attendant Union Praises Senate for Reaching Deal on FAA,
Braces for More Difficult Fight in September**

FORT WORTH (Aug. 5, 2011) - The Association of Professional Flight Attendants praised the work of President Obama, Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood, FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt and key Senators including Reid, Baucus, and Hutchison for their work in reaching a short-term deal to reauthorize the FAA yesterday. The agreement, announced by Leader Reid yesterday afternoon, will put back to work thousands of furloughed FAA employees and tens of thousands of construction workers, if only until mid-September.

"I am encouraged by the Senate's ability to put politics aside for the sake of getting people back to work," said APFA President Laura Glading. "Unfortunately, this short term deal will only get us so far. It kicks a very delicate can just six weeks down the road and our union is gearing up for another tough legislative battle for workers' rights after Labor Day. I would like very much to see a long-term bill come out of this drama, but certainly not at the expense of organized labor. I call on Chairman Mica to take a more thoughtful stance on the NMB provision as he works to pass a permanent FAA reauthorization or long-term extension."

The House passed a permanent reauthorization in April, but it included language that weakened the aviation industry's labor unions and the National Mediation Board, which was a non-starter with Senate Democrats. That disagreement is, in part, what led to the recent impasse and partial agency shutdown.

About APFA:

Founded in 1977, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) is the largest independent Flight Attendant union in the nation. It represents more than 17,000 Flight Attendants at American Airlines. APFA Members live in almost every state of the nation and serve millions of Americans as they travel the nation and the world. In 2003, APFA played a major role in keeping American Airlines solvent and out of bankruptcy by giving back an employee bailout of \$340 million in annual salary and benefits, for a total of over \$2 billion and counting. Today, American Airlines is one of the nation's leading air carriers and after three years and over 125 meetings APFA is still in frustrating and stalled contract negotiations with company management. Laura Glading is serving in her first four-year term as president of the union.

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