



The Senate of The State of Texas

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SENATOR WENDY R. DAVIS
District 10

August 15, 2013

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

I am writing in regard to the proposed merger between American Airlines and US Airways and to respectfully request that the Department of Justice reconsider its opposition to the plan that would lead American Airlines out of bankruptcy. In practical terms, blocking the merger would threaten thousands of jobs in Texas and across the country.

I disagree with Attorney General Eric Holder's statement that the merger will have a negative impact on consumers. Rather, I believe that American Airlines' failure to survive bankruptcy would contribute to an even less competitive arena in the airline industry than would the proposed merger. I believe the merger would, in actuality, have a considerable positive impact on competition. The merger is a key feature of the court's approved plan for transitioning American Airlines out of bankruptcy. It is critical to its survival and therefore critical to its preservation as a competitor in the commercial airline market. Failure to support the merger may ultimately mean failure to maintain American Airlines in the marketplace.

Further, blocking the merger may result in significant disruption of the U.S. labor market. American Airlines employs nearly 60,000 people around the world, including thousands who live in and around the Senate district I represent in Tarrant County. American Airlines' employees have already undergone a number of personal sacrifices to do their part to keep the company viable, including having their pensions frozen for months and going without much-needed and much-deserved pay raises. Blocking the merger would radically alter an agreed-to blueprint for saving American Airlines and the jobs of its employees, and thereby risk the much needed return of American Airlines to its rightful place in the market.

I know you and I share the same goal of protecting consumers while preserving jobs in a highly competitive global market. I believe the plan approved for American Airlines and US Airways appropriately strikes that balance.

I greatly appreciate your consideration of this request on behalf of the thousands of hard-working Texans whose financial security and livelihoods depend on the final outcome of this issue. I stand ready to assist your Administration through this process with whatever means necessary.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy R. Davis".

Wendy R. Davis
Texas Senate - District 10