

Docket Operations
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W
Nassif Building, Room PL-401
Washington, DC 20590

Re: Foreign Ownership and Control
(Docket OST-03-15759)

Dear Department of Transportation:

I am writing to voice my concerns about DOT's proposed rule on actual control of U.S. airlines by foreign parties.

DOT has said that the rule is unrelated to recent aviation negotiations with the European Union to "liberalize" air travel between the United States and the 25 EU countries. But, as I now know, the rule is very much tied to DOT efforts to sign a deal with the Europeans. I have read that the EU said it will not initial a new aviation agreement with the U.S. before the EU knows that the rule will become final.

It seems to me that the DOT rule was written only to get a deal signed with the EU, and while the U.S. – EU deal gives European airlines improved access to the U.S. market, DOT's proposal does nothing for U.S. airlines that cannot operate at London's Heathrow airport. It is wrong to say Heathrow would be open under the proposed agreement because U.S. airlines like Continental still won't be able to operate at Heathrow due to lack of landing and take-off slots and lack of airport real estate. In this regard, I have to say the U.S. Government has failed to open up U.S. – London Heathrow air service while Heathrow is the top airport to use while flying to and from London.

I do not believe DOT has the authority to change U.S. aviation laws regarding foreign ownership and control of U.S. airlines. I understand members of the U.S. Congress have written letters stating the fact that Congress is the legal body to review, discuss and take action on new laws relating to U.S. airlines and their ownership and control structure. I believe my elected congressional officials are the only appropriate individuals to consider the implications of changing U.S. aviation law.

I support U.S. Government efforts to liberalize international travel but only when the liberalization occurs on an equitable level, is fair to the U.S. and when the discussion takes place in the proper forum.

For the above mentioned reasons I am urging you to withdraw the proposed rule.

Regards,

Name:

Address:

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