



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

OCT 23 2008

The Honorable Timothy Mahoney
US House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Mahoney:

Thank you for your letter, cosigned by your congressional colleagues, supporting a request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia Airlines, Finnair, and Royal Jordanian for a grant of antitrust immunity to operate an integrated alliance. The Secretary has asked that I respond on her behalf.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's review of this request is part of a public proceeding in which interested parties have the opportunity to comment. The Department carefully considers all requests for antitrust immunity, beginning with a review of the record to assess whether there is sufficient information to make a reasoned decision that satisfies all statutory requirements. Decisions regarding requests for antitrust immunity are made after consultation with the Department of Justice, and are based upon statutory standards that include antitrust principles. As this proceeding is pending, I am sure you understand that I cannot comment on the merits of the case. I assure you, however, that the Department will give full and fair consideration to the Joint Applicants' request, as well as all comments in the docket.

As is our normal practice, I am placing a copy of your letter and this response in Docket OST-2008-0252 as a contact outside the record in this matter. I appreciate your interest in this proceeding. An identical letter has been sent to each cosigner of your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Michael W. Reynolds
Acting Assistant Secretary for
Aviation and International Affairs

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590
Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Madam Secretary:

We ask that you support and approve the application for antitrust immunity filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian. Approval of this application by the U.S. Department of Transportation would enable these five oneworld alliance members to deliver competitive flight schedules, fares and service, and compete on equal footing with Star and Sky Team alliances, which currently enjoy antitrust immunity for transatlantic flights.

American Airlines is an important partner the state of Florida relies upon to provide connectivity to our tourism and international trade communities. The American Airlines Latin American and Caribbean hub in Miami provides critical jobs and access to international markets our tourism and business communities depend upon. Finally, with more than 300 daily departures from operations at 12 Florida airports, American and American Eagle employ more than 10,000 people, our largest airline employer.

Your support and approval of the request by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian to establish a joint business agreement for operations between North America and Europe is critical. This agreement will create a more efficient and comprehensive transatlantic network for the carriers' customers. This action will have a positive impact on air travel by offering customers more service, scheduling, and pricing options, and it will help to ensure that customers continue to benefit from having three competitive air alliances.

Sincerely,



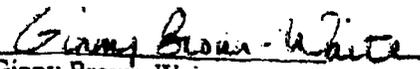
Mel Martinez
United States Senator

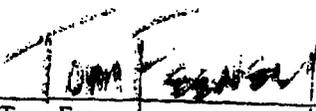


Bill Nelson
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515


F. Allen Boyd, Jr.
Member of Congress

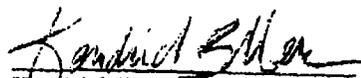

Ginny Brown-Waite
Member of Congress


Tom Feeney
Member of Congress

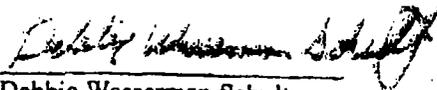

Alcee L. Hastings
Member of Congress


Connie Mack IV
Member of Congress


Timothy Mahoney
Member of Congress

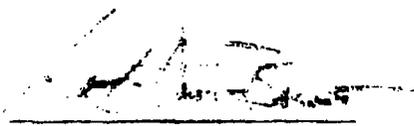

Kendrick B. Meek
Member of Congress


Adam Putnam
Member of Congress


Debbie Wasserman Schultz
Member of Congress


Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515



Lincoln Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress