



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCSYS
Assistant Secretary 1200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.
Washington, DC 20590

OCT 23 2008 11:13 AM

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2402

Dear Congressman Thompson :

Thank you for your letter of October 6, 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.

Sincerely yours,

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

BENNIE G. THOMPSON
SECOND DISTRICT, MISSISSIPPI

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY
CHAIRMAN

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2432 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2402
(202) 225-5876
(202) 225-5898: FAX

E-Mail: benniethompson@mail.house.gov
Home Page: <http://www.house.gov/thompson>

THE COMMISSION ON
CONGRESSIONAL MAILING
STANDARDS

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL GAMING CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS
CONGRESSIONAL RURAL CAUCUS
HOUSE EDUCATION CAUCUS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2402

October 6, 2008

The Honorable Mary Peters
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Madam Secretary:

I would like to express my support of American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian and their application for antitrust immunity. Approval of this application as is by the U.S. Department of Transportation would enable these five one-world alliance airlines that operate transatlantic service to work closely together to deliver highly competitive flight schedules, fares and service as well as compete on equal footing with Star and SkyTeam alliances, which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity for transatlantic flights.

In addition, I also support the request by American, British Airways and Iberia to establish a joint business agreement for operations between North America and Europe, which would 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 will help to ensure that customers continue to benefit from having three competitive air alliances.

Your favorable consideration of this request is greatly appreciated. Should you have any concerns, please contact me.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress

- | | | | | | |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 107 WEST MADISON STREET
P.O. Box 610
BOLTON, MS 39041
(601) 866-9003
(601) 866-9036: FAX
(800) 355-9003: IN ST. | <input type="checkbox"/> 509 HIGHWAY 82 WEST
GREENWOOD, MS 38930
(662) 455-9003
(662) 453-0118: FAX | <input type="checkbox"/> 910 COURTHOUSE LANE
GREENVILLE, MS 38701
(662) 335-9003
(662) 334-1304: FAX | <input type="checkbox"/> 3607 MEDGAR EVERS BOULEVARD
JACKSON, MS 39213
(601) 946-9003
(601) 982-5337: FAX | <input type="checkbox"/> 263 EAST MAIN STREET
P.O. Box 356
MARKS, MS 38646
(662) 326-9003
(662) 326-9003: FAX | <input type="checkbox"/> MOUND BAYOU CITY HALL
P.O. Box 679
106 GREEN AVENUE, SUITE 106
MOUND BAYOU, MS 38762
(662) 741-9003
(662) 741-9002: FAX |
|---|--|---|--|---|---|