



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKETS

Assistant Secretary

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

NOV 28 2008

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The Honorable Tom Cross
House Republican Leader
Illinois House of Representatives
Plainfield, IL 60544

Dear Representative Cross:

Thank you for your letter of November 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



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TOM CROSS
HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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November 6, 2008

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

RE: Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Madam Secretary:

As Illinois House Minority Leader, I write in support of the application for antitrust immunity filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian. Approval of this application by the US Department of Transportation will allow these airlines to work collectively to provide highly competitive transatlantic services to customers and to compete on an equal basis with Star and SkyTeam alliances, which currently benefit from broad antitrust immunity for transatlantic flights.

Also, I encourage the US Department of Transportation to approve the request by American Airlines, British Airways and Iberia to establish a joint business agreement for services between North America and Europe, which would create a more efficient and comprehensive transatlantic network for their customers. Approval of this request will offer their customers more service, scheduling and pricing options and will help to ensure that customers continue to benefit from having three competitive air alliances. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tom Cross', written over a horizontal line.

Tom Cross
House Republican Leader
State Representative, 84th