



**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

DEC 10 2008 10:00 AM EST

The Honorable Bob Riley
Governor of State of Alabama
Office of the Governor
State Capitol
Montgomery, AL 36130

Dear Governor Riley:

Thank you for your letter of November 24, 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

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

BOB RILEY
GOVERNOR

(334) 242-7100
FAX: (334) 242-0937

STATE OF ALABAMA

November 24, 2008

The Honorable Mary E. Peters
U. S. Department of Transportation
The Secretary of Transportation
400 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing to request your support and approval of 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 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, please support and approve 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. The marketplace is ever expanding and it's therefore important that easy and convenient access be given to that country. This new alliance would have a significant economic impact on business and leisure travel throughout the nation and the world and would 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 more competitive air alliances.

I hope you will give strong consideration to approving this joint application for American Airlines and their new partners to expand customer choices for air service.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob Riley".

Bob Riley
Governor

BR/bt/ps