



**U.S. Department of  
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary  
of Transportation

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION  
DOCKETS  
Assistant Secretary  
200 New Jersey Ave., S.E.  
Washington, DC 20590

OST-2008-0252

December 23, 2008

The Honorable Michael F. Easley  
Governor of North Carolina  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor Easley:

Thank you for your letter of December 5, 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



ACTION

S10-081215-025

CONTROL NO

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
20301 MAIL SERVICE CENTER • RALEIGH, NC 27699-0301

MICHAEL F. EASLEY  
GOVERNOR

December 5, 2008

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

RE: Docket DOT-OST-2008-0252

Dear Secretary Peters:

It is my pleasure to support the application for antitrust immunity filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian. Approval of this application will enable these five OneWorld alliance airlines to work closely together to deliver highly competitive flight schedules, fares and service. In addition, approval of this application will allow these airlines to compete on equal footing with Star and SkyTeam alliances which currently enjoy broad antitrust immunity for transatlantic flights.

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. Approval of this request 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.

With kindest regards, I remain

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Easley".

Michael F. Easley

MFE/ce

