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American Airlines Shorts Customers With Cutbacks, Fees for Checked Bags

‘What Kind of Airline Does American Want to Be?’

Eules, Texas – Laura Glading, president of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants, released the following statement in response to American Airlines announcement that it will cut back flights, lay off employees and start charging for the first checked bag:

“American Airlines flight attendants are deeply disturbed by the course that management is taking with these dramatic cuts and new fees for customers. We are concerned that our airline is abandoning its commitment to air passengers and its employees while cutting service to the bone. It seems that management is willing to cut everything except its salaries.

“It raises the question, ‘What kind of airline does American want to be?’ We’ve always prided ourselves with providing the very best service, putting passengers first. We now see airline executives, who just accepted multimillion-dollar bonuses while the company is

struggling, turning their backs on customers in a slavish devotion to profit.

“We understand that the industry is beset by soaring jet fuel costs, but we believe this response is a retreat from our position as a first-class airline. No American Airlines employee wants to see this great airline diminished, and that’s what this management team is doing.

“We will do what we can under our contract to protect flight attendants’ jobs, and the service we can provide to passengers. We wish that management had the same commitment to protecting the air service our airline has built over the years.”

*APFA is the nation's largest independent flight attendant union representing more than 19,000 American Airlines Flight Attendants.
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