



The Association of Professional Flight Attendants
1004 West Eules Boulevard
Eules, TX 76040
Tel. 817.540.0108 Fax. 817.540.2077

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Contact: David Roscow,
703-276-2772 x21

Flight Attendants at AA Launch Effort for Anti-Trust Immunity *Push for American Airlines Alliance with British Airways and Iberia*

Eules, TX (October 29, 2009) -- Citing evidence of strong job and revenue growth among airlines that have already forged world alliances, the Association of Professional Flight Attendants (APFA) today announced support of anti-trust immunity for American Airlines in its pursuit of the **oneworld** alliance with British Airways and Iberia.

Speaking for the APFA, President Laura Glading said, "Our in-depth review of the application by American and other members of the **oneworld** alliance make it clear that these airlines need the immunity to have a long-term competitive outlook. The best prospects for maintaining and creating jobs for our members lies with approval of anti-trust immunity and the strengthening of the **oneworld** brand and network, including our continued relationship with JAL."

Despite APFA's considerable frustration over stalled contract negotiations with American management, Glading said, "We are supporting this effort because we understand the tough competitive landscape that our airline operates in every day and that without the anti-trust immunity we will be at a competitive disadvantage. We also know that the alliance with British Airways and Iberia is an important way to create greater security for our members by creating long-term stability for the company, which are both among the things we're working to achieve in bargaining."

Glading said that APFA's unprecedented access to the financial and feasibility documentation developed throughout the application process, "made it obvious that airlines with world alliances are enjoying growth in revenue and jobs that we can benefit from."

APFA said the union would take several steps to urge that anti-trust immunity be granted to American Airlines, including:

- Urging the Department of Transportation to approve the application for anti-trust immunity as filed by American Airlines, British Airways, Iberia, Finnair and Royal Jordanian Airlines,
- Communicating APFA's support to the European Commission, and
- Informing Congressional leaders of the alliance's potential for creating domestic job growth.

"This is a crucial juncture in the competitive life of the company," Glading said. "On this issue, we're willing to work cooperatively with management."

"Now it's time for American management to show that same spirit of cooperation, instead of continuing to drag its feet in bargaining." In more than 18 months of negotiations for a new contract, American Airlines has yet to make a wage proposal.

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