



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20590

April 10, 1998

The Honorable Alex Penelas
Mayor of Miami-Dade County
Miami, Florida 33128-1994

OST-96-1700-128
OST-97-3285-39

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
DOCKET SECTION
98 MAY -6 PM 4: 19

Dear Mayor Penelas:

Thank you for your letter concerning the American Airlines-TACA Group application for authority to conduct code-share operations between the United States and six Central America countries (Docket OST-96-1700); and the American-Lan Chile application for approval of and antitrust immunity for an alliance agreement (Docket OST-97-3285).

By Order. 97-12-35, issued December 31, 1997, the Department tentatively decided to approve with several conditions the American-TACA Group code-share application. Several interested parties, including the Department of Justice, have filed comments regarding the Department's tentative decision.

By Order 98-2-21, issued February 20, 1998, the Department established a procedural schedule for the filing of answers and replies in the American-Lan Chile antitrust immunity case. Several interested parties have filed in opposition to this request.

As each of these proceedings are currently pending before the Department and have been contested, I am sure you understand that the Department's rules preclude me from commenting on their merits at this time. I can assure you that we will consider all relevant factors in reaching our decisions. I will also see that you receive a copy of the Department's findings in each case.

In accordance with the Department's Rules of Conduct (14 C.F.R. Part 300), I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in the correspondence section of Dockets OST-96-1700 and OST-97-3285, as well as in the file for views submitted outside the formal record of these cases.

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely

Rodney E. Slater



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

ALEX PENELAS
MAYOR

ACTION	
is assigned to	
X	[Redacted]
CONTROL NO.	
980316-003	
SIMS	S-10

March 2, 1998

The Honorable Rodney E. Slater
Secretary of Transportation
400 7th Street, SW
Room 10200
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: American Airlines - TACA Group Codesharing Application (Docket OST-98-1700); and American Airlines - Lan Chile Antitrust Immunity Application (OST-974285)

Dear Secretary Slater:

On behalf of Miami-Dade County, I urge the Department of Transportation (DOT) to **issue promptly the final** approval needed for **American Airlines** and the TACA Group to **implement** their **codesharing** agreement -- an agreement that has now **been** pending at the **Department** for nearly 20 months. I **also** request that the Department process **expeditiously** and approve **the application** for antitrust immunity by **American** and Lan Chile submitted on December 23, 1997, as well as **the related application** of those **two carriers** of October 7, 1997, to engage in codeshare operations.

We in south Florida are deeply **concerned** that **the ability** to enjoy the fruit of these international alliances has, to date, largely bypassed Miami International **Airport** and our **community**. **Conversely**, cities with which we are major competitors for **business** activity -- **such** as Atlanta and Chicago -- **have reaped** enormous **benefits** from the DOT approved **comprehensive** and extensive international **carrier alliances** anchored at those airports.

I believe that prompt approval by DOT of **these** two transactions **will** be a good start in **giving** Miami-Dade County and South Florida a fair chance to enjoy those same rewards. And we also know, **conversely**, that without DOT approval of these two arrangements, our community will **continue** to be held back in the **competitive** race for International business and economic **prosperity**.

Thank you for your **consideration** of these important matters.

Sincerely,

Alex Penelas
Mayor
Miami-Dade County