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August 20, 2001

Mr. Norman Y. Mineta
Secretary of Transportation
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
PL - 401
Washington, D.C. 20590



RE: Proposed anti-trust immunity for American Airlines

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am a retired employee with TWA, and I understand American Airlines is in the process of asking the U.S. government to approve anti-trust immunity that would lead to an alliance between American and British Airways to codeshare their respective routes. Donald Carty, President and Chief Operating Officer of American Airlines argues that such an alliance would benefit the traveling public. Carty in a communication to his employees dated August 3, 2001 indicates such an alliance would allow the two airlines to coordinate pricing and scheduling. My question is why should the two airlines be allowed to coordinate prices. In my view, coordinating prices is synonymous with price fixing.

My recent experience with American and the recent experience of hundreds of my fellow retirees at TWA is that Carty and his crew do not give one wit about the traveling public. During the integration of TWA into American, and for reasons known only to the executives of American, these individuals have created an atmosphere of ill will and contempt toward TWA personnel and the retirees. This is not surprising as American has a history of bad employee relations and constantly ranks high in consumer complaints. I think you will agree with me good employee relations go hand in hand with good consumer relations.

A careful examination of the acquisition of TWA by American Airlines would indicate that American has, and will have continuing problems integrating TWA personnel into its ranks. Furthermore, from the information that I have been able to ascertain, there may be a good deal of labor strife before there is a final resolution of the merging of the two groups.

Airline analysts and travel experts have said the purchase of TWA by American would benefit American, but the acquisition would further reduce competition and would not benefit the traveling public. It is hard to believe that an alliance of British Airways and American will increase competition. I am not alone in urging you to reject any alliance between American and British Airways. Certainly, these two giants of the airline industry are strong enough to compete in an open market without any alliance between them.

My friends and I have been strong supporters of President Bush since the day he announced he intended to be a candidate for President, and I'm proud to say my husband and I follow the issues, send contributions to the Republican National Committee and vote in every election.

I look forward to hearing from your office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sondra Browning-Ott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sondra" being the most prominent.

Sondra Browning-Ott
SBO/vd

cc: Donald J. Carty, Chairman, President and CEO
AMR Corporation/American Airlines, Inc.