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Dear Sirs:

I strongly object to the proposed alliance between American Airlines and British Airways. I support the Department of Justice in its concern that this alliance impedes competition, and therefore, does not benefit the consumer. Travel agents and analysts also agree that while airline alliances bring better perks in terms of easier ticketing and opportunities for use of frequent flier miles and facilities on either partner, it still means less competition, fewer choices, and higher fares.

As a consumer I am extremely concerned that fair competition be protected, especially in light of American Airline's history of predatory conduct (case pending before the DOJ), and the most recent controversy over American's unethical treatment of both active and retired TWA employees acquired through the TWA bankruptcy. American is well known for its own bad employee relations and constantly ranks high in consumer complaints. In addition, American, historical disregard for airline security and safety have positioned them as the U.S. leader in FAA violations and fines, and has put them under fire in recent years over their pilot training program since a disproportionate number of the airline's major accidents over the past 15 years have been attributed to pilot error. All of this eloquently points out their lack of concern for the public, and their unworthiness as a candidate for monopolistic powers;.

I urge you not to approve this alliance as the consumer is not served, and I look forward to your response to my comments.

Respectfully,

Gail M. DeFranco  
2022 Renford Pointe  
Marietta, Ga. 30062