



July 25, 2007

The Honorable James Oberstar  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar:

On behalf of the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO (TTD), I write to ask you to incorporate the Carnahan merger protection amendment into the FAA Reauthorization bill (H.R. 2881) when it moves to the House floor.

As you know, TTD represents thousands of aviation workers, including most of those employed by U.S. airlines. These workers have borne the brunt of the economic fallout from 9/11 and resulting industry consolidation. Today, airline workers are working more, earning less, and have little recourse as their retirement options dwindle.

As Congress heard during testimony on this topic earlier in the year, airline employees often suffer serious economic consequences when two air carriers merge operations. Airline workers' flight and work schedules, as well as their pay and pensions, depend on the seniority system. As such, the date a worker enters into a certain job classification at an airline is of great importance to the nature of their employment; every day worked moves a worker one notch higher on the seniority list. Should a worker change airlines, he or she would start at the bottom of the seniority list and pay scale. As in other industries, a seniority based system has resulted in a stable workforce and certainty in the workplace in the airline industry.

Currently, workers who find themselves merged into another airline may end up on the bottom of the seniority list. This situation affects the merged worker's schedule, pay, pension, and raises his or her susceptibility to be furloughed. Essentially it creates a situation where workers with thirty or more years of service can find themselves out of work because their seniority did not carry over when their employer merged into another airline. The Carnahan amendment is a fair and common-sense remedy to integrate seniority systems by date of hire.

Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO

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Edward Wytkind, President • Michael A. Ingrao, Secretary-Treasurer

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We urge you to accept this amendment as part of your manager's package. We believe this is an important component of any successful airline merger and we know of no opposition to this proposal from the industry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edward Wytkind', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Edward Wytkind  
President

cc: Honorable John Mica, Ranking Member  
Honorable Jerry F. Costello, Aviation Subcommittee Chair  
Honorable Thomas Petri, Aviation Subcommittee Ranking Member  
Members, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee