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February 10, 2010

The Honorable Ray LaHood  
Secretary  
United States Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary LaHood:

On behalf of the North Houston Association, I am writing in support of the Continental/United/All Nippon Airways joint application for antitrust immunity and approval for the three carriers to create the first ever joint airline venture between the U.S. and Asia.

Last year, the North Houston Association supported Continental's Trans-Atlantic antitrust immunity and joint venture application to join the Star Alliance, given the consumer benefits it would provide. Continental's subsequent entrance into Star has enhanced competition among all three global alliances and, for instance, is the primary reason Continental has launched new non-stop service between Houston and Frankfurt, Germany and Edmonton, Canada. Continental also reinstated the Houston-Washington/Dulles market, which allows easy access for customers to United's Dulles hub, a Star Alliance partner. Additionally, service from Newark/New York to Munich, Germany is scheduled to be added this year, giving the Houston area an easy one-stop connection. We are confident that approval of the Pacific application can also be helpful to Continental in expanding its network in the Pacific region once economic conditions warrant.

We firmly believe cooperation among airlines benefits air travel consumers, airline competition, and drives jobs and economic growth. With the recent U.S. - Japan open skies agreement, barriers to new air service between our region and points in Japan have been removed. Antitrust immunity will enable all three airlines to make coordinated decisions that will give airline customers and shippers more flight choices, more itinerary options, and more fares to choose from when traveling between the U.S. and Asia.

We encourage you to approve this joint application as promptly as possible.

Best regards,

Mark Froehlich  
Chairman of the Board

  
Jon Lindsay  
President