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July 30, 2008

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

Dear Secretary Peters,

This letter conveys my request as President of the North Houston Association that you support Continental Airlines' application to the Department of Transportation to enter into an alliance relationship with United and with other members of the Star Alliance. Continental is a vital part of the Houston economy and approval of its proposed agreements will help ensure Continental's long-term competitiveness.

Fundamental industry change is necessary due to the unprecedented financial crisis the airline industry faces and I support Continental's decision to remain an independent airline and to continue providing its award-winning service as a member of the Star Alliance. Continental proposes a way to become a more global competitor and to achieve additional network reach without merging: joining the Star Alliance's anti-trust immunity; seeking enhanced cooperation with Air Canada, Lufthansa and United with a trans-Atlantic joint venture; and offering the domestic consumer wide-ranging benefits via codesharing, frequent flyer and airport lounge reciprocity with United Airlines in the U.S. These new relationships will mean that Houston's business interests and traveling public will have access to more destinations worldwide, a greater inventory of seats, more route possibilities and more price options.

Continental's significant Latin American presence accessed via the airline's Houston hub will give Star Alliance customers flight and destination choices in this global region that they lack today. The Star Alliance is lacking a strong partner in Latin America to compete against oneworld's regional presence (American Airlines) and SkyTeam's presence (Delta) and Continental will fill this service gap.

Specifically, I ask that you approve Continental's application to participate in anti-trust immunity previously granted to nine other carriers in the Alliance; to develop a competitive joint venture with Air Canada, United and Lufthansa and to cooperate in the domestic market with United Airlines. Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

Jon Lindsay
President