



CARLOS A. GIMENEZ

MAYOR

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

August 20, 2013

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

The U.S. Department of Justice's recent announcement that the Federal Government has sued to halt the planned merger of American Airlines and US Airways comes as an unwelcome surprise to our community. American Airlines (AA) is Miami-Dade County's fourth-largest private employer and provides meaningful work to thousands of our residents. Moreover, Miami International Airport (MIA)—a key American Airlines hub for Latin and South American traffic to the United States—is Miami-Dade County's number one economic engine with an estimated economic impact of \$33 billion. From our vantage point, the anticipated merger of two of our nation's legacy carriers would have an undeniably positive effect on our community: more jobs for our residents, new routes and greater access for locals and visitors to take advantage of, and increased opportunities for commercial activity via an expanded network.

The alternative to a successful merger, however, presents an altogether different possibility. On their own, neither American Airlines nor US Airways can compete effectively with the U.S.'s two largest carriers, Delta and United, both of which grew exponentially in size when Federal regulators endorsed their mergers in 2008 and 2010, respectively. Worse, these two carriers both operate hubs, in Atlanta and Houston, which directly compete with MIA for international traffic.

This litigation is thus itself anti-competitive, as it locks in structural advantages Delta and United gained through their respective mergers while depriving American of the benefits of consolidated operations and networks that have accrued, and continue to accrue, to Delta and United. In turn, this places MIA, which competes with Atlanta and Houston for international passengers and cargo, at a competitive disadvantage. For MIA, the merger will lock in continued growth with new routes, at a faster rate than any other carrier could contemplate. It will also preserve thousands of jobs that might otherwise be at risk if AA were now to attempt to compete on its own. And finally, the merged airlines' combined cash assets will help assure positive bond rating outlooks for MIA in the future.

Furthermore, this proposed merger is not simply a coming together of two storied companies — it's also a clear path out of bankruptcy for American Airlines. It dispels any uncertainty in the marketplace regarding the short and long term fate of American Airlines and allows the County, investors, airlines, and other stakeholders to make more informed decisions regarding the future of Miami International Airport.

By denying American Airlines this pathway, the Federal Government will be exposing the jobs and incomes of AA employees to significant risk – not just in Miami-Dade County, but across the country – at a time when our domestic economy can sorely afford it.

In light of these factors, and on behalf of the tens of thousands of local residents and their families who depend on American Airlines for their livelihoods, I ask you to reconsider this unexpected action.

Respectfully,



Carlos A. Gimenez
Mayor, Miami-Dade County

C: Senator Bill Nelson
Senator Marco Rubio
Congresswoman Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Congressman Mario Diaz-Balart
Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman-Schultz
Congresswoman Frederica Wilson
Congressman Joe Garcia
The Honorable Pam Bondi, Attorney General, State of Florida
The Honorable Rebeca Sosa and Board of County Commissioners
The Honorable Harvey Ruvlin, Clerk of the Courts
Robert A. Cuevas, Jr., Miami-Dade County Attorney
Emilio T. González, Aviation Director