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BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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Application of	)	
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SANTA BARBARA AIRLINES, C.A.	)	
	)	
for an exemption pursuant to 49 U.S.C. section 40109	)	Docket OST-00-8448
from the provisions of 49 U.S.C. 41301.	)	
(Venezuela-U.S.)	)	
_____	)	

**ANSWER OF AEROPOSTAL ALAS DE VENEZUELA, C.A.**

Communications with respect to this document should be sent to:

Pierre Murphy  
Law Offices of Pierre Murphy  
One Westin Center  
2445 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 260  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
Phone: (202) 872-1679  
Fax: (202) 872-1725  
Email: pmurphy@lopmurphy.com  
Attorney for  
Aerpostal Alas de Venezuela, C.A.

March 2, 2001

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**ANSWER OF AEROPOSTAL ALAS DE VENEZUELA, C.A.**

Aeropostal Alas de Venezuela, C.A. ("Aeropostal") respectfully submits this Answer to the February 15, 2001 Amendment No. 1 to the Application of Santa Barbara Airlines, C.A. ("Santa Barbara") for an exemption from 49 U.S.C. §41301, filed herein on December 1, 2000.

Aeropostal takes no position on the Santa Barbara application for authority to engage in scheduled combination foreign air transportation between Venezuela and "a point or points" in the United States (See: Santa Barbara Application, December 1, 2000), except to the extent that Santa Barbara seeks to engage in scheduled air transportation of persons, property and mail between the points Caracas and Maracaibo, Venezuela on the one hand, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on the other hand, as set forth in Santa Barbara's February 15, 2001 amendment herein.

In support of this answer, Aeropostal states as follows:

1. Like all other duly licensed and designated U.S. and Venezuelan carriers, Aeropostal currently operates its scheduled Venezuela-U.S. services on bilaterally-authorized routes. Aeropostal currently holds DOT exemption authority to conduct duly licensed and designated scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between (1) Caracas/Port of Spain, Venezuela, and San Juan, PR; (2) Caracas and Orlando, FL/Atlanta, via intermediate point Aruba; (3) Venezuela and Miami, FL; (4) Venezuela (except Maracaibo) and New York, Newark, NJ; and (5) charters pursuant to 14 CFR 212 of the Department's regulations; using aircraft wet leased from a duly authorized and properly supervised carrier. See Notice of Action Taken dated August 24, 2000 (Docket OST-98-3730-15).

2. To the best of Aeropostal knowledge, the U.S.-Venezuela Air Transportation Agreement<sup>1</sup> ("Agreement") does not include Fort Lauderdale, FL, as an authorized U.S. point for the duly licensed and designated carriers of Venezuela.

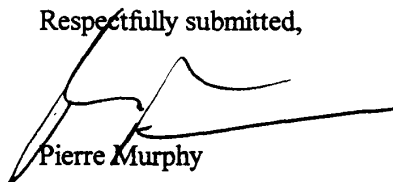
3. However, to the extent that the Department were to grant Santa Barbara the authority to operate to Fort Lauderdale, FL, on an extrabilateral or any other basis, Aeropostal would also request that it be granted the same extrabilateral authority, since it has been interested in operating scheduled services to Fort Lauderdale for some time now.

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<sup>1</sup> The Agreement entered into force August 22, 1953 and amended on February 11, 1972, September 22, 1976 and October 10, 1990

WHEREFORE, Aeropostal Alas de Venezuela, C.A. does not oppose Santa Barbara Airlines, C.A. application to engage in the scheduled foreign air transportation of persons, property and mail between the points Caracas and Maracaibo, Venezuela on the one hand, and Fort Lauderdale, Florida on the other hand, but only to the extent that Aeropostal would be granted similar authority to Fort Lauderdale.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Pierre Murphy". The signature is stylized with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

One Westin Center  
2445 M Street, N.W.  
Suite 260  
Washington, D.C. 20037  
(202) 872-1679

Attorney for  
Aeropostal Alas de Venezuela, C.A.