

**BEFORE THE  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

<b>1998 U.S. – Japan Combination Service Proceeding</b>
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**Docket OST 98-3419**

**ANSWER OF ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIES OF MISSOURI**

Associated Industries of Missouri (AIM), a business and industry trade association representing 1,500 members before the Missouri General Assembly, state administrative agencies, the courts, and the public, hereby answers in support of TWA's application for St. Louis to Tokyo authority and for an allocation of seven weekly frequencies to provide this service. The proposal of this service will have profound impact on the economy of the State of Missouri as employers and other entities seek to increase exports to Japan.

Recently, Missouri has made great strides in opening Japanese markets to the diverse products manufactured in this state. Over 50 Japanese companies have opened offices in Missouri with the purpose of strengthening the partnership between Missouri producers and Japanese consumers. With the addition of non-stop routes to Japan, Missouri will be able to grow and diversify this market base. The result will be the creation of new and better jobs for Missourians as well as the furthering of Missouri's reputation as a major international export center.

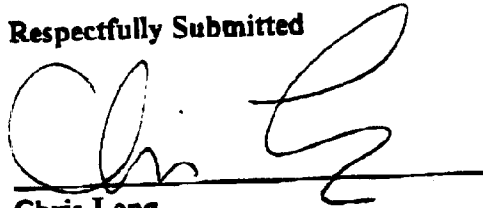
TWA has been a member of Associated Industries of Missouri for over 25 years. During this quarter century, TWA has grown and matured into a driving force in this state's economy. As Missouri's major air carrier, TWA must serve as the catalyst in Missouri's efforts to compete on an international

scale. TWA must be granted important economic opportunities such as the proposed St. Louis to Tokyo route if it is to continue in its important role.

This issue will also have a profound impact on the economy of the St. Louis area, which is a driving force behind the development and expansion of markets throughout the state. As the fifth largest airline hub in the nation, St. Louis is the largest hub presently without non-stop service to Japan. The importance of TWA to the regional economy as the hub airline providing approximately three-fourths of the scheduled air service, and as the employer of 13,000 persons in the State of Missouri, is significant.

On behalf of the 1,500 member companies of Associated Industries of Missouri, many of which are seeking to expand their presence in Japan and surrounding Asian nations, AIM asks that every consideration be given to allocating seven of the 90 available frequencies to TWA.

**Respectfully Submitted**



**Chris Long  
President  
Associated Industries of Missouri**

**February 13, 1998**